

People PI - Troy Baker

Title	Feedback	Result
B Grade Set Subject	BS	
A day of Fun at the Beach	We all love a fun day at the beach so it's great to see the smiles still adorn faces when a day at the beach involves competition. Reminiscent of a day at Bondi Beach this has an old film feel to it. It's a nice exposure with a crop that for me, is a bit too tight. It would be nice to have a little more room around the main subject to avoid that cramped feel. The colour although slightly muted fits the film type feel but to me, also lacks sharpness. A promising location for I am looking for a little more or the wow factor.	Accepted
All Dressed up for Festival Fun	Looking very steampunkish, a genre very active in my area and one I enjoy shooting. These two certainly seem to enjoy the limelight. I love the lighting here as whatever its source, has illuminated the subjects (especially her) with a glow. Maybe the Parasole played a part here. IMO this is also cropped or shot to tight. I would have liked to have seen the gentleman's entire hand within the frame as this adds un-necessary weight to that point which competes for attention with the main subject. Also, I believe that because the gentleman is the closest subject, the focal point should have been on him. At the moment he is a touch soft and she is sharp. A great subject to photograph but this needs some careful consideration. Please have another go if the opportunity presents itself.	Merit
Andy and Roman water fountain	Much like me, as there are times I just can't help myself. Judging from the expression, this looks like is spontaneous act, possibly directed at someone. I love the mischievous nature of this image but think it could be improved with a little crop. Taking into account the story, are we able to enhance the feel with a simple crop? I would say "yes". Let's say you cropped out from just below the shirt down. This would centre and strengthen the story to where it matters. Another thing I can suggest is to add a touch more room to the right-hand side. This would add a little more balance as well as more of the water that shoots in that direction. A great moment caught.	Merit
Beach Hop Dancers	The highlight of 2018 for me was dancing Rock n Roll in front of 1700 people in our local Dancing with the Stars competition. Considering myself and dance just don't mix, it was a significant achievement to have placed third. With that said, I can relate to this image. I would have liked to have seen smiling happy faces as they twirled and performed for what was surely an appreciative crowd. I've always though this an interesting filter effect and while these types of filters are not my thing, I believe it has some merit here. My suggestion would have been to apply the filter to the couple only giving the feeling of a couple totally animated, focused on their own little world as they danced through the reality that surround them. I different take I know but a case for more creative use of these effects. Such a colourful scene offers you opportunities to experiment further so always try to think past the obvious.	Accepted
Fishing on a Winters Day	This reminds me of the west coast beaches which always seem so unforgiving. With such wild and hostile seas, I think your choice of black n white runs well with the story. It certainly aids the wintery feel. From a compositional point of view, I have some suggestions for improvement. The first is to be careful with objects entering the frame that in odd places such as on the right side, two thirds up. A careful crop or the patch tool could fix this. Also, a crop to aid in providing a more definite visual lead in line from the bottom left into the fisherman. To do this, I would take some off the top as well as the left until the line of the wharf intersects the bottom left hand corner. This would improve the composition, balance and retain the aspect ratio. One last point, The right-hand fisherman. For me, having his fishing rod coming out of the back of his head looks a little odd. Some small fixed could elevate this image and make it much strong. Great base from which to work.	Merit
High on Ruapehu	If only one could build a house here. Waking up to that view each morning would be amazing but ascending the driveway each afternoon would be a challenge. Areas such as this always seem to have a defined clarity, a pureness of colour as is visible in this image. To me the highlights have been clipped a touch too much and would have loved to have seen the detail. I tend to meter towards the highlights and then pull the shadows back in Photoshop. One suggestion is a crop with the idea of having both the outside edges of the mountain entering the frame from on or close to the bottom corners. This help create a lead in for the eye through to the climbers more effectively. Amazing location and I envy you.	Merit
Hot Glass	A recent tv program based around competitive glass making made me realize what great photographic opportunities like within the art of glass making. I enjoy the glass mimicking what could be flowing honey as it manipulated into whatever shape is handler desires. It's never easy judging such images as things like freedom of movement, environmental restrictions and safety issues are essential elements we are unaware of so forgive me. For me there are some issues here that need addressing. May I suggest moving around to the left could have reaped a better compositional result. As it sits the metal rods cut through faces and divide the image. While I enjoy the slight gritty feel this has, its offset by being out of focus. The focus point appears to be forward of the man in the singlet. Be careful with moving subjects as this can quickly render a focus point obsolete.	Accepted
Icy Crossing On Tongariro	There are those who are happy and content to sit at home surrounded by what makes then comfortable and then there are these guys, where it's all about adventure and challenging one's self. This certainly looks cold and the slight underexposure adds to that feeling. I would have like to have had more of the scene included which would have add more of a sense of isolation and ruggedness to the landscape, more context. IMO this can benefit from a trip through Photoshop. The background has a blue cast and I would also lighten up the fore ground subjects a touch as well as extract a little more detail from the background. You have a nice bas to work with here that need a little TLC.	Accepted
Knitter at the Market	A great way to indulge in your hobby, benefit from a social environment and maybe make some money at the same time. Time to take up knitting? This lady certainly seems to be totally focused on what she's doing. Markets are a great place to shoot candid street style pictures. They are often filled with variety and colour which is why such a potentially busy, bustling and colourful environments is an off green colour. I ask myself what's behind the choice of colour treatment on this image? For me it doesn't fit with the story I see here so please be careful not to add effects just for the sake of doing so.	Accepted
Looking at washed up forestry reject	A rugged piece of coastline reminiscing of many west coast beaches I have visited. A great use of mono with what looks to be an infrared effect. This has the vegetation up on the hill side looking like fire. The blackened sand really gives the washed up logs some life. I love the fact you a human element in the shot. I've always believed the presence of a person in a landscape can often provide a point of difference, that extra element that gives it some life. Unfortunately for me, the infrared effect kind of cancels that out. The person just blends into everything else just a touch too much for my liking. May be just a different mono effect on the person would have them pop a little more? Great scene that just need a touch more.	Merit
Ruapehu, stop for crampon fitment then up to the top !	Altitude seems to bring with it crystal clear skies and a pure cleanness to colour. A nice memento of a group climbing together and a great memory captured. This is one of the reasons we take photos. This shot stands out from the last as it shows context. We have more of the surroundings a nice touch of colour. While I'm sure it's still a little Kool it's nice to see two gentleman still wearing shorts. For me this is still a little flat and a quick run through Photoshop adding some contrast would enable it to stand out a little more. Also for me this doesnt excite.	Accepted
Shutter-bugs at a Chinese New Year Parade	While most people have cameras facing towards the parade, you're shooting the shooters. I appreciate that as there is many a great shot to be had by not shooting the obvious. It's always amazing how many people have cameras raised these days rather than just watching what's happening. IMO this is just too soft. There are times where I can appreciate the effect but for me, it's not here. I'm not too sure if this was shot using old style film equipment or maybe even a film like filter but I do like the effect.	Accepted
Survivor	A Little champion beaming with excitement and pride. We all have our time to shine and this little man is enjoying every bit of it. Shooting down the ranks with him flanked by those much taller and bigger than his just adds to his sense of achievement and helps the visual focus lands squarely where it needs to. He is sharp but I would have loved to have seen a touch more light on him. maybe a re-touch in Photoshop would lift him to where he needs to be, otherwise a very nice shot.	Merit
Synchronised Paddlers	Timing is everything with these types of sport with white-water kayaking being a favourite of mine to shoot. Nicely timed with these two lads although they do look as though they are in the same boat. Although I do like the synchronised look, for me, a touch more boat separation would have been nice. Maybe capturing these two a little more front on would have helped the image jump out a bit more. A little more DOF would also benefit this as the background is quite strong texturally but it's a nice action shot. Nice and sharp where it counts with every droplet of airborne water visible.	Accepted
Technological Divide	The library as it stands today seems to symbolise a day when the book was king. Like vinyl records they will never die but with the people visible here, not one has a book on hand. With the internet as the library of the modern age, this image is testament to how technology has changed the way we seek information. The ambient lighting is natural and subtle, and I enjoy the way you have thought about achieving a balance and placement of elements. A strong Image with a strong narrative. Well done.	Highly Commended
Tramping Kaimanawas	This takes me back to my hunting days, tramping the Ureweras and the Kaimanawas. Great memories and amazing stories. Here in NZ we are blessed with beautiful landscapes and it's great to see this group enjoying what we have. A nice shot of taken well above the tree line which makes me wonder what they are all looking at. I have some post-production suggestions for you. For me this is a touch miss timed. One person has a finger to nose and another is in the process of inserting a piece of food. 1 or 2 seconds could have made the difference. Also, maybe a little work in photoshop to lift the shadows to bring out more facial detail would also help. The shadow / highlights tool can be quite effective here. All in all, its a great memory to have.	Accepted

Two Mates	Reminiscent of the last of the summer wine. For those who aren't familiar with the program, it was a series of a groups of old men who seemed to be forever getting themselves into trouble. We all know what happens after a few beers so hope these two lads have more sense. A nice image of two mates catching up over a beer wearing their Sunday best and it certainly shows a touch of character. I can see the faces have been brightened up a notch which is a step in the right direction but as a whole, I would like to see image lightened a little more. Also, if you were able, maybe take one step back to include them fully as IMO this would create a more pleasing composition. As it stands, elements such as the glass on the left, centre and the wristwatch that are either cut or not grounded create points of tension. Also including both mens arms, hands and backs could help create a more balanced shot.	Accepted
Undistracted	With young love in bloom, the whole world could be on fire and it wouldn't matter. A lovely shot, hand in hand enjoying their time together. Before I delve into this, unfortunately the file is damaged with the section just below the couples feet not rendering. An image full of life, love and colour, hope for the future and such a great environment to shoot. With that in mind I would hate to add a "BUT" so I hope this helps. IMO the image, especially the central section is under-exposed. With the story in mind, I think this should be bright and the most made of all of that beautiful colour, make them shine. Also, I would also recommend some perspective correction. This is a simple and quick fix in Photoshop. Potentially a cracking image that just needs more LOVE.	Accepted
Vintage Week Old Boys Tech Modern	This makes me laugh. We have all heard the negative comments levelled at texting teens and then we have these two. Totally oblivious to what's around them as they engage their digital devices. An image with a nice story attached that unfortunately lacks a little technical flair. I find the foreground a touch over exposed and for some reason soft throughout. Also please be aware of your background as I find the positioning of the tree trunks and the person top left a distraction. A well seen image that needs tweaking.	Accepted
A Grade Set Subject AS		
At the saleyards	A typical Kiwi rural scene. These events seem to be just as much of a social outing as they are a sales event. I applaud your choice of black n white as it's a method I frequently use to focus attention and lift the narrative. I can see the man in front, being the main initial subject is out of focus. This seems to have landed on the gentleman next to him. With a black vest and so prominent, I would suggest you re-think the focal choice. I also find the 3 guys walking towards the camera, far left a distraction. He appears out of the back of the main subject. Also, for me, the fact they wear the same shirts adds a similar textural element which binds the two together. A great scene with a couple of issues.	Merit
Craftsman	The creator photographing the creator. Where would we be if we didn't have the ability to create? Yet again I see an image worthy of the mono treatment. For me, any colour that could visually distract has been removed. I believe this wouldn't suit every image so use with a considered eye. I enjoy the whites of the face, hands and the flame. 3 points that form that classic triangle. I have a couple of suggestions. First I would lift the black patch on the top left shoulder. Being so dark, it draws the eye away from the main focus of the image. Secondly, I would crop this tighter. If you rid the image of what could be seen as extra space at the top and remove the verticle elements on the upper left and right sides, this would be a cracker.	Highly Commended
Engrossed in the music	In a darkened mind, music can be the light that warms the soul. Im sure many of us can relate to how music can spur on memories or be an escape for the stresses of modern life. Image with great naratives are always standouts for me. With the story in mind I see lighting that maybe a little to harsh and in need of diffusion. Can I suggest maybe just a touch of side lighting from the rear right would have topped this off and provided some background separation. Two points that stand out a bit to much for are the light on the neck and right arm. I enjoy how the light illuminates all the right portions of the image without giving to much. I love how the notes flow in the background as if the music envelops the space.	Highly Commended
Family Fun	I have these moments burnt into my memory of when I was a child, in a boat, being rowed around a lake by my dad. Riding the miniature train with my parents seated behind me. I would expect this moment to be a favourite this little boy will always remember. A great time on what looks to be a great day and a great story here. Let's make it better. This is my opinion but maybe crop in tighter? Getting in close strengthens the subject and the story. It also excludes the sky top left. Now it is a more focused story of a father and son coupled with high speed fun. Great moment, well captured.	Highly Commended
Friends	Common causes, shared experiences create an understanding and a friendship. These things can happen without a word being spoken. With the title in mind and the interpretation I expressed, I would have liked to see the colour retained in this image. I would feel the warmth, the light adding to vibrance. By stripping the colour, I get feel a harshness, a sadness as if it's about loss. I enjoy the crop but absolutely love the way she gazes upon their joined hands. Magic moment that needs to shine with colour.	Merit
Inking up	Whether is a remembrance piece, a desire to be expressive or a symbolic gesture, we have a series of generations adorned with ink. I agree with the mono choice and although it helps clean-up a very busy location, would like to suggest a lower contrast option that wouldn't condense the blacks as much. Be care full not to over sharpen as I can see distinct halos along contrasting edges. I don't mind the fact we can see no one's face which implies the tattoo maybe a very personal piece but I think it's a shame I can't see the act itself. Nice image and a fav of mine to capture	Merit
It's in the bag	Wonderful in their diversity. Colour, smells, culture and vibrance. You certainly picked a great place to shoot. I like the two women across from each other, obviously from different backgrounds engaging as they pick the choicest produce from the pile. The frame angle adds a dynamism that compliments the differences displayed. I would like to see the woman on the left included in the frame just a touch more. It can be a compositional balancing act as cutting to much or including too much can throw off the balance. Shifting the camera to the left would include her more as well as cutting out the orange trolley frame on the right. IMO the image is underexposed, and the shadows could do with lifting photoshop.	Merit
Lunch Break	As a child, I wouldn't say we lived in poverty as to me, our situation was ok so it was a shock later on in life to find out that my siblings and myself ate every day, but only because my Mother went without. The two kids enjoy there lunch while Dad happily whatches on. Hes at the same level as the children which add a feeling of guidance and protection. As I have mentioned before, some images do look better in colour. This has a warmth to it and for me, mono takes some of that away. I like the way its framed as well as the fact the shot seems to be from a lower perspective.	Merit
Modelling hats	Such an essential accessory these days, even children's toys wouldn't be seen in public without one. A great capture. A series of mannequins sporting hats alongside a woman wearing her own choice of head wear. I'm sure this wasn't lost on you, so I commend you for seeing what it was. It's a shame the woman wasn't seated beside the dolls. With such a busy scene I enjoy the black and white effect. It simplifies what we are looking at thereby strengthening the narrative. I like the use of light, darker background with the light falling on what matters. Nicely seen and executed.	Highly Commended
My Happy Place	And that's why we do it, the smile says it all. Water is determined to take me down so I focus more on land based pursuits such as mountain biking to give myself that smile. I think you have composed this well. The subject may not be on the third but with the need to retain the wake behind the board, you have stuck a nice balance. For me this is well exposed with good highlight control but it seems to be not as sharp as I would like it to be. Im not to sure if this was the result of a large crop. Great action shot but I truly love the pure enjoyment he displays.	Merit
Myth - healthy suntan	An seemingly old school belief that a tanned body was a healthy body. A belief that seems to no longer holds true with melanoma taking such a toll these days. I like the angle with the head towards the bottom of the frame, as for me, it seems to strengthen the message. Looking at this I would almost be inclined to believe you snuck down there and place the book on the longer to make a point. A clever addition than almost elevates this to the level of an anti-tanning campaign image. The only little fix I would recommend would be to have just a touch more room between the elbow and the bottom of the frame. Elements such as this close to the frames edge can create unnecessary points of tension. Great image and well pieced together	Honours
Not an axe murder! Paper Dyeing , Katmandu	The clean-up crew for a professional hit squad? If it wasn't for the clothing and the casual look in the woman's face, one would think the worst. Colours a vibrant with the blue being a nice contrast. I recommend shooting this from a lower perspective. I always try to shoot at or close to eye level as I believe it to be a more natural angle when photographing people. In this case, maybe move a little to the right to lose the tree in the background but remain just high enough to still make out what's in the blue tub? This would also enable the containers either side to frame her. A lot of potential here and with a few tweaks would be a standout.	Merit
One more!	A setting reminiscing of Arrow town and a place I would love to stage photoshoots. If only it were just a bit closer to where I live. She stands in the sheet of light cutting through the gaps in the buildings and obviously knows how to hold herself. You have the man placed in between the window frames perfectly plus highlights are well controlled. As the woman is facing your camera, i would suggest making her the focal point rather than the man. While this is an image I don't find particularly exciting, it's a nice candid of a contrived scene	Merit
Outback travelling	Nothing better than packing up, taking only the essentials and busting out of town for a few days. It's almost some kind of primal desire to leave the concrete jungle and re-engage with nature. I get a sense of intensity here as these two either pack up or re-arrange there load. In this situation, I would have waited a tad until the man had re-positioned himself as this isn't a flattering angle. The lighting although harsh seems well controlled which is a plus. For me this lacks that little bit of something special, like it's a snapshot rather than a well throughout image.	Accepted

Pop Up Culture	Great innovation is often born out of necessity rather than desire. The influx of portable popup structures offers great opportunities to live, create and do business amongst a world of ever increasing costs. I enjoy the lower shooting angle here. It places more emphasis on the people in the foreground. I also like the fact no one is engaging the camera giving this a candid feel. To me the yellow umbrella highlights the slight yellow colour cast throughout the rest of the image. This can be fixed with a quick touch up in Photoshop using levels. I also feel the composition would be improved if the picnic table on the right hand side wasn't clipped. As it stands, it draws the eye to that point compromising the sense of balance it provides.	Merit
Shepherds with dogs Cross Country Race	That one time when there are no friends, A RACE. A great action shot showing the carnage and intensity. I enjoy the facial expressions and although this is possibly a fun event, no one's expressions reflect that, even the pooch. That's not a negative as it really adds to the feel of the image. As a photographer with a newspaper background, I appreciate the tight crop and although keeping it tight can heighten the feel, for me there is enough action here to loosen the crop up a bit and give the subjects in the frame more room to breathe. Great action, sharp where it needs to be while still retaining movement in the water. Nice work.	Highly Commended
Snip	An activity that maybe necessary but one I find irritating. Every time it seems to be a 30-45min wait to get in the chair? An effective use of black n white and appears to be sharp where it matters. I question why you have left the barbers facing out of frame and the client out the shot? My eye hits the barber, then follows his direction left to find the frame. I try to create a visual journey in an image, to control how the eye flows and moves through it. I understand you may have your reasons but for me, it's confusing. A great place to shot and you're on the right track. It's certainly a shot worth trying again.	Accepted
Street band on a break	If only buskers in NZ put so much effort in creating an audio and visual experience. What treat (that's me assuming they actually sounded good). There are certainly times stripping the colour away can accentuate the character of a photograph but in this case I left wondering "what it"? I'm looking and asking myself about the graffiti, clothing and adornments to the instruments that could contain a burst of colour that not only compliments the feel of the music but also the character of the musicians. I like the control in the tonal range with the highlights in check. The composition seems a touch tight so wonder if you could have taken a step or 2 backwards. This helps the image breathe a little more and creates a more relaxed feel. Nice shot with some character but wonder if there's a little more to be had.	Merit
Teenage Prenancy	Friendship matters regardless of age. It's one of the best stabilizing influences when this go wrong. I looked at this and saw a shared moment on a summer's day by the beach. I thought there must be more so read the title. I admit go gogging "Prenancy". I try to take nothing for granted but I assume you meant "Pregnancy"? My spelling and grammar leaves a lot to be desired but please be careful here. Also for me, I wouldn't rely on the title to tell the story, I believe that's the roll of the image and the title should complement that. I see no signs of pregnancy of any emotional reaction to discovering it. I enjoy the creative crop as well as the subtitle vignette. Great ways of cantering attention of the subjects.	Accepted
The Fear of Public Speaking	You either love it or you hate it. Standing on front of a large group of people, all eyes on you can be a nervous experience but luckily for me, I enjoy it. Clever photographic goodness either in the form of a reflection of double exposure. I like the old style treatment of this as it almost symbolizes the man, his age and his past. The crowd almost look amused as either he struggles to engage or tells tales of old. For me his appearance, both subtle and symbolic is enough to give him a presence and the crowd, which is his true test, is front and centre, foremost in his mind. Well seen and captured.	Honours Winner
The Ferris Wheel Ride	I got into trouble playing on one of these when no one was watching when I was a kid. I had to drop 12ft to then ground in order to run from an irate operator. Besides that I'm sure we all have fond memories of the Ferris wheel when they passed through town. I love the expressions captured of the faces of these two as they share the experience. I see this as a great moment, one the kid may remember for a long time so I wonder about the decision to run with a dark contrasty black and white which for me, contradicts what's going on. I would be careful about applying and effect for the sake of jazzing up an image. These effects will either compliment the image or they won't. Also I would have like to have had more of the mum included within the frame. IMO, having her exiting the frame as she does creates an awkward feel. Having said that I do like the angle this has been shot on which adds a degree of dynamism to the story.	Accepted
The Stairway	Wow that must be such a daunting prospect for someone not so young anymore. This raises questions such as, "how far has she climbed" and "how many more will she have to scale"? Such is the way with a photograph where nothing is always as it seems. I enjoy the discoloured concrete, its grittiness that gives it a certain foreboding and she descends each step. Such a great addition to the story. This would be a classic case for a monochrome image. One concern I have is the imbalance created by the inclusion of the light blue object that spans the length of the left hand side. This adds weight to the left, almost rendering the right pointless. Try removing this either in Photoshop or by covering it over and ask yourself if it improves the composition?	Merit
Time for a Kit Kat. Porter on Everest Trail, Nepal	Launching a business as a chiropractor is a place such as with could net one a fortune. I'm always impressed with how and how much people are capable of carrying when needed. This image certainly captures the load and possible strain this man endures on a regular basis. I find the way he faces the rock wall as a symbolic element. To me is suggestive of the obstacles he has to face and overcome. I like the semi de-saturated colour look which adds to the feeling of hardship. I would like to see a little more room below the feet as I believe he is a touch to close to the frame at that point. Other than that a great shot.	Highly Commended
Under the brollies	There are those who live to dress up and head out for a great day with their mates and then there are the photographers lying in wait, cameras loaded, ready to pounce. I enjoy the happy faces, the way the parasols line-up creating a ceiling like effect over the ladies. IMO this is a bit flat along with a wealth of colour begging to be drawn out. A touch of brightness and contrast in Photoshop would do wonders. Also maybe a shallower depth of field to reduce the impact of the background distractions. A great base here that just needs a little more TLC	Merit
Vintage fashion show	Dress up is not just for the more mature, kids love it even more. A very cute image with these two seemingly enjoying the attention. Great work only just keeping the highlights in check but for me, the composition needs work. For starters the girls head is cut off, the background in general is a touch distracting and the line, top, rear is a distracting element. Maybe shooting from a slightly higher angle with more space around the subjects would have helped? Also I would suggest a little lifting of the shadows on the faces. One again, as before, a great base that needs a little work. Good colour and clarity.	Accepted
A Grade Open	AO	
Connecting with Nature	Coming from a town that has won the most sunshine and best beach titles, this is a scene I can relate to. Long summer days at the beach. For me the title is a little off considering I see two people who maybe out in the natural world, seem distracted. There seems to be not a lot of connecting going on?. That aside the image has a warmth I can relate to. The highlights in the water are in check plus the seagull is a nice addition. One suggestion I have would be to crop a little off the bottom. I feel you have tried to balance the scene with an even amount of water and sand but for me, the line of the wave upsets the balance. A crop off the bottom may help bring it back in check. Also the gull is a touch to close to the right hand side IMO. Nice image but a little more work would elevate it a little.	Accepted
Springs gift	The delicate essence of softness and pastel shades. A favorite subject we all try our hand at from time to time. I enjoy the depth of field and love how the white merges into yellow. I would have liked to have seen the whole rose contained within the frame. For me a centered rose with the tow leaves (bottom L & R) acting as leading would have made for a better composition. I appreciate the artistic approach but I believe this would benefit from some adjustments.	Merit
Workout	Open spaces, room to unwind, wind in the hair and runs as fast as you can. There's fun to be had while working out. An effect reminiscing of a high contrast high ASA film. Strange how many of us embraced the new digital tech only try hard for a film effect, me included. I enjoy the grittiness of this which adds to the sense of harshness a good workout delivers. Motion is captured we; with an almost abstract feel. For me this is a great example of lost highlight goodness. Great job.	Honours