

TOWNSVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB INC
PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGE COMPETITION

JUDGES REPORT

2026 August – Theme - OPEN

Judge - Terry Power - Cairns

Image Title	Comments	Score
Beautiful Poppies	I can see why these poppies caught your eye – they really are calling out to be photographed. They stand proudly in the brighter light against a darkish scene – they literally appear to be floating! The three slightly different colours of the poppies add a nice touch. Be careful with your aperture selection as the dof is a little too shallow and as a result parts of each flower are not in the zone of acceptable focus.	6
Busy Bee	This is a good subject, and you have done well to get in this close. Your control of light is good however your image appears to be soft, and your subject is not in focus.	6
Egret	This is a nice image of the egret. Your control of exposure to capture the lovely clean whites of your subject is great and true to life. The sunlight beautifully illuminates his head and neck, and I generally like your composition, however, I would like to see if more could have been done with his reflection.	7.5
Water Lily	This image shows great composition, and the purples and greens really add impact. Capturing this bee in action is a nice addition to the story of what is happening here! Unfortunately, your main subject – the water lily - is not in sharp focus.	6
Deep Colours of the Orchid	Orchids make beautiful subjects but their trail of flowers can make it difficult to compose and capture effectively. Your efforts to contrast the flowers is noted, however I would encourage you to experiment more with your composition to avoid the cement at the bottom of the scene. You may have to compromise and include less of the orchid flowers.	6
Walk Along the Beach	This is a scene that would be very familiar to your members – the Strand with its popular walking path The leading line of this path and the balance of the foreground trees and the beautiful blue sky create a nice image. You must have risen very early to capture it so empty! That said, I think capturing this solitary person where she is, doesn't really add to the scene – maybe capturing her a little closer would have added further interest to this composition.	7

Queenstown Panorama	This is a wonderful landscape and your decision to shoot it as a panorama has allowed us to really appreciate the scene. There are many elements that combine to make this really pop – the lighting variations, the beautiful blues, greens and yellows, the balanced thirds, the arch of clouds, good focus and composition! Great work!	9
Moeraki Boulders	The Moeraki Boulders are certainly an interesting feature of this NZ beach (I have been there) and they make great subjects, however your image seems to be more of a snapshot than a well thought out capture. Having random people in the background and an unremarkable sky, make them somewhat challenging to photograph. I encourage you to try different perspective or moments, or apertures – maybe catch people doing something significant, or a better sky exposure or colours, or more interesting shadows etc.	7
Still Standing	The decaying blocks of what I imagine is one of the pyramids, tell the tale of time – even things built of stone will eventually crumble away! With that, your image title of, 'Still Standing' is appropriate. Your focus and exposure are good and the stark and featureless sky seems to add to your subject. I think your image might have been improved if we had a little more context, by pulling back a little.	7
Himalayan Buddhists	The people in this scene and their colorful clothes are just calling out to be photographed – good choice of subject! Including the structures of the doorway is a nice compositional addition and the square crop is effective. It that you have boosted the shadows a little too high and the image lacks a little in terms of contrast and their skin tones don't seem quite right.	8
Wicked Sand	Wow! The combination of your shutter speed (slow enough to create motion blur, yet fast enough to capture the van as still) and your composition really allows us to appreciate the sand drift happening here and the inclusion of the Wicked van is a novel touch and makes your title just so magic! Your decision to compose as a panorama further allows for the sand drift to be captured.	8.5
Our Last Days	I find your composition effective and the choice of yellow and pink flowers create an image with instant appeal. I am not exactly sure how you set up these subject – maybe arranged on top of a lightbox or in a light tent – either way I feel as though you haven't exposed sufficiently to make the most of these flowers.	8
Waiting too Long for the Photographer	My comments here will resemble those of a previous lightbox or light tent image – your set up, composition, and technical skills are commendable, but the whole image is a little too subdued. Indeed, even the background is a pale yellowish. I would love to see this image more strongly illuminated to	7.5

	allow us to better appreciate the features of your subjects and for their colours to better pop!	
Cosy Room	I applaud your decision to capture this room – it really does make a fine still life subject. Your control of light to showcase the cozy and dim light feel of the scene great and allows the viewer to appreciate the smooth timbers, the soft furnishings etc. In this composition, however, the colours and the brightness of the scene outside are too much of a distraction. I would suggest closing the drapes and allowing the scene to stand on its own.	6
Crawling Frongs	You have done well to capture this unusual subject. Your exposure and contrast enhance your subjects and their curly tendrils! The background at the top of your image is busy, messy and somewhat distracting. I wonder if adding a slight vignette to darken this portion of your image (to balance the lower light at the bottom and both sides) might better highlight your subjects.	7.5
Bee on a Pentas	This image has immediate appeal due to the wonderful complementary colours – the greens and the pinks. I appreciate your efforts to capture both the bee and the pentas bouquet; however I feel that your composition might be improved if you zoomed out a little to include the whole bouquet or composed with the bee on a rule of thirds line.	7
Watching	This is a good image of this honeyeater, and he is in sharp focus against the background. You have managed to capture him in a bright shaft of light that allows us to appreciate his features and inquisitive watching! I feel this image could be boosted by a little more space on the LHS - for his tail and for balance.	7.5
Breakfast Time	I like the story evident here – literally a hive of activity with the honeybee and the native bees drawn to the nectar of this flower. The varying forms and colours of the greenish radial leaves, the soft white petals and the yellow spikey stamen make for an interesting image. Watch your dof – it is too shallow and much of your subject is not in focus. If you get in too close (or even zoom in close) your dof decreases – look to close down your aperture to compensate for this.	6
Surveying the Surrounds	Your technical skills and composition have captured a majestic throne for this butterfly! Your sharp focus, choice of aperture, and point of shooting have beautifully isolated your subject against this soft, pastel background and the greens of the leave add a nice visual touch.	8
Night Lights	This is a dynamic image, and it immediately grabs the viewer's attention. Your decision to remove almost all colour is different and invites us into the story of the activity here. Your narrow aperture has created effective starbursts of the streetlights and allowed a long exposure that gives wonderful	8

	curving light trails and leading lines. I know that you cannot control the traffic, but this scene would be improved if you didn't have the queue of cars waiting to turn right – maybe just keep snapping and experimenting.	
Oops I Dropped the Capsicums	Wonderful effort in creating this <i>still</i> life image! You have set the scene very well with clear glass, clear water and excellent lighting and your technical skills are great. Your exposure and the timing of your shot are spot on, and your shutter speed and the timing of your shutter have caught the capsicums halfway through their impact and the bulk of the splash just above your subjects – excellent work!	9
Australasian Darter	A magic shot to begin our entries in this Open Category. Your composition has made the most of your subject – she is captured in a typical darter pose with wings spread for drying and yet she has turned her attention to us and caught our eye! The lovely shallow dof has isolated your subject beautifully and the lighter colours at the top have made her head pop. Good contrast and exposure. Congratulations on this image.	9
Rainbow Bee-eater	The wonderful colours of the Rainbow Bee-eater make her a fabulous subject and your sharp focus and shallow dof have beautifully isolated her from the lovely soft beige background. Her expression and pose are unmistakably that of a stare down and she really engages the viewer and tell a story that creates interest!	9
Go Away!	You have caught a good moment here and your title seems very apt! This character certainly seems to be aware of your presence – he is looking directly at you (and thus us, the viewers) and his open mouth and glint in his eyes give a clear message – “Go away!” Your exposure, focus and composition are good and add nicely to the image.	8
Success	This is a great image of the Rainbow Bee-eater - or is it a Rainbow Butterfly-eater? Capturing a bird on the wing requires good camera skills and you should be pleased with this result. Your image is a little soft – maybe this is movement blur as a result of a shutter speed that was not quite right?	8
Brothers Hanging Out	I imagine that you would have been in awe being there and capturing this image! Your technical skills (exposure, focus, shutter speed and general composition) are commendable. The giraffe on the right is looking directly at the lens, and this engages the viewer. The uphill and downhill lines of the scene create somewhat of a confusing composition – I wonder if a slight rotation to have the three giraffes standing on a horizontal line might bring better balance to this image.	8.5
My Type of Kenyan Accommodation	I applaud your technical skills in capturing this image – excellent control lighting, aperture, cropping and composition. I am just not sure that there is sufficient interest in this scene to take this image to the next level.	8

Image of the Month

Image Title	Reason for Placing
Rainbow Bee-eater	As per my comments earlier – this is a fabulous capture of the Bee-eater with the added interest created by her stern expression. Excellent lighting, moment of capture and evidence of good technical skills and decisions. We are truly invited in to this image and the character of the subject as much as by the visual and technical appeal! (Marcia Bacon)