TOWNSVILLE PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB INC
PROJECTED DIGITAL IMAGE COMPETITION

JUDGES REPORT

2026 Theme – Open - November
Judge - Suzanne Wacker - Brisbane

Image Title	Comments	Score
Alert	Lovely texture in the feathers. While the background is soft and out of focus, I'd consider desaturating it slightly so that the bird stands out even more strongly. Perhaps also lighten the eye slightly. The bird very much looks like it's alert and looking for prey.	7
Pretty Flower	The pinks and oranges in the flower give the image tone and contrast. I'd consider desaturating the greens in the background a little as I feel they overpower the colours in the flower. A soft, delicate image.	7
Posturing Falkland Island Birds	The white bird stands out against the darker background. However, I feel the darker bird blends in a little too much. Consider bringing out the shadows and lightening this bird to help it stand out more. A well-chosen crop.	5
What are Those Big Blue Things	The penguins definitely seem to be looking at those big blue things with interest. I suggest cropping in from the left and only including the main blue figure. The others don't have much shape and have their backs to the camera. I think you just need the one to convey the story. Also consider cropping in from the right a little to remove that lone penguin that is right on the edge of the frame. The colours and tones feel very natural.	6
A Very Tropical Botanic Garden	There are some interesting reflections in the water, and I feel that is the stronger part of the image. I would crop in from the top so that the viewer's focus is more on the people and the reflections. Overall, well exposed.	5
A Fern Uncurling	A delicate image. To lift it higher, I feel it needs to be a little sharper in the middle. Perhaps add some clarity and contrast in this area. While the background is soft and out of focus, I'd consider desaturating the green a touch as it feels a little over saturated. The lighting has been well handled.	6
A Humpback Diving	The tail stands out strongly against the background and almost looks like wings. However, I feel the image is a little soft and flat overall. Perhaps consider increasing the contrast a little and brightening it while protecting any highlights. The inclusion of some of the background gives it environmental context.	5
Handsome Devil	This is quirky. It really looks like the animal is grinning into the camera. The horns have only just been cut off, which could feel like it's a mistake rather than intentional. I'd consider either including all the horns, if you have them in the original image, or cropping in even tighter. Well captured.	7

Ummm Just Thinking	A very human expression on the face. Consider toning down some of the highlights on the fur and adding some light into the right eye. Also, the eyes are very central. Consider cropping down a little from the top to bring the eyes more onto the third. Colours feel very natural.	6
African Goshawk	I like the lower viewpoint with the bird looking down at the viewer. It gives the impression that the bird is surveying its kingdom. For me, the image is just a little oversaturated. I'd consider backing off the saturation slightly to give the image a more natural look. Well-chosen crop.	6
Antelope Canyon Arizona	I've seen many images of the canyon and what I like here is the way the maker has focused on some of the details rather than trying to include it all. The texture in the rock almost looks like waves. I'd consider darkening down the bottom a little more to help the viewer's eye move towards the light. A well-chosen crop.	8
A Thicket of Trees	I like the shapes and textures. I feel the warmer, more central part of the image, is stronger. It feels a little too cool and green towards the top. Consider selectively adjusting the colour temperature, or alternatively, crop out the top to focus more on the warmer part of the image. It has an almost abstract feeling to it that I enjoyed.	6
Traveller's Palm Trunk All A'Glow	This has an abstract feel to it which I enjoy. To lift the image further, I'd consider adding a touch more clarity or contrast to really emphasize the textures and shapes. The exposure has been well handled.	8
Find the Bug	There are some nice texture and light in the central part of the image. I'm not sure I would have found the bug if it wasn't for the title. I do struggle a little to understand why the bug has been included. I'd consider cropping right in and only including the central part of the image. That is quite strong and interesting in itself.	6
Not the Normal Flow	This image grew on me the more I looked at it. The movement in the water is lovely. At first glance, the colours appear a little over saturated and too blue but I think that suits the more abstract feel. I'd consider cropping down from the top so that the focus is on the water and rocks. The green at the top competes with the more aqua/blue at the bottom. Overall, well done.	8
A Wet Night	I really like the atmosphere here. It very much looks like a wet, moody night. For me, the image overall looks very soft and there is nothing really in focus. I feel it just needs something in focus, perhaps some of the raindrops in the foreground. The low viewpoint does put you right in the scene. It's an idea well worth exploring.	5
Perfect Landing	The lifted wings and splashes give the image movement and energy. I feel the time of day has unfortunately limited options for the image. The lighting is a little harsh and there are some strong highlights. As is, consider whether a tighter	5

	crop would help bring the viewer's focus more onto the bird. The blue water does provide a clean background.	
I Know I'm Cute	Definitely a cutie! There is lovely light and texture in the wings. A minor suggestion is to consider cropping in a little from the left. That would bring the focus even more onto the bird. However, that's a minor suggestion.	9
Sneaking a Kiss	This is cute and definitely tells a story. To lift the image, I suggest toning down the strong highlights on the left bird's head. Also try and lift the shadows in the tail feathers a little. Well-chosen crop.	7
All Mine	The background is soft and muted, which helps the bird and the flowers to really pop. Overall, there appears to be a lack of sharpness in the image. The bird's head and eye in particular need to be sharp as that's the focal point. Experiment with different camera settings to try and get the image as sharp as it can be. The colours feel natural.	6
I am Just Saying	I feel having three birds works well here. It does look like they are having a bit of a chat. To lift the image, I'd consider trying to darken down and desaturate the background a little so that the birds really stand out. They blend into their surroundings a little too much. The birds themselves are well exposed.	7
Showing My Roots Off	The tree roots provide interesting texture, and they contrast nicely with the flowing water. I can see why you were drawn to them. However, for me, the roots are a very small part of the scene. A tighter crop might help to make them more prominent, while including just enough water to provide that interesting contrast.	5
Training in the Morning	The ripples in the water produce really interesting shapes. Everyone is facing the same direction except the one at the back. This conveys some compositional tension which I enjoyed.	9
Never Mind the Bees	The head is sharp while the wings are blurred, giving the image a strong feel of movement. Lovely light and the background is soft and out of focus. I'd include just a little more light in the eye. A minor suggestion.	9
Pretty Yellow Robin	Lovely light and texture in the feathers. To lift the image, I'd give it just a little more breathing room at the bottom. The tail feathers are almost on the edge of the frame. The strong patches of white in the bottom corner are a little distracting. See if you can tone this area down. The front on view and eye contact works well.	7
Upside Down	A dynamic composition. To lift the image, consider lightening the bird a little, particularly in the eyes. There is a little loss of detail in the white patch underneath the head. Try and bring some of that back. The colours have been well handled.	6
Well Caught	An example of the decisive moment. Just as the bee- eater has caught the dragon fly. To lift the image, see if you can bring out some of the detail in the shadows in the tail. A dynamic and engaging subject.	7

Bring Her In	A colourful and engaging image that captures the character of this seaside harbour. However, the scene feels a little busy to me and there is no clear focal point. To lift the image, consider a tighter crop to reduce some of the water and help focus the viewer's attention on the main part of the scene. There is nice texture in the sky.	6
The Start of the Migration	The subdued colours and tones work well here. I realise you wouldn't have been able to get all the animals in frame, however the one beast in the bottom left-hand corner is very prominent and because it's been partially cut off it's more noticeable. You could consider cropping in more from the left-hand side. Overall, the exposure has been well handled.	7

Image of the Month

Image Title	Reason for Placing
Training in the Morning	The ripples convey movement and I enjoyed the way everyone is looking ahead except for the one rower at the back. The image tells a story. **(Cecily Jones)**