



Rawiti Falls

Noel Herman

As I appraise this image I appreciate the reduced flow of the waterfall shows how dry the weather had been before the image was taken. It is a pleasing image with so much to see. The milky water suggests the photographer has used a slow shutter speed and the foreground is in focus.

The bright reflection of the water in the stream is distracting in my opinion, competing with the bright green fern on the right edge of the image resulting in an image that is weighted to the right. I feel the story is below the lip of the waterfall with all the different greens, browns and grey being fascinating. I wonder if the photographer might try a crop across the lip of the waterfall to take out the highlighted stream to see the winning image that I believe will be revealed.

This image has been taken from an interesting viewpoint and has potential as discussed.

I award this image a Merit.



Victoria Falls

Noel Herman

I can almost feel the power of the torrent and hear the thunder of the water from these mighty falls. I like the way we are peeping through the canyon in this view. The jagged cliff face silhouetted against the falls is great for a fertile mind to conjure faces. Will I ever get the chance to get to see these falls myself?

In my opinion the rock at the left lower corner distracts my eye as it is too bright and I wonder if the photographer might try using a burning tool in post processing to tone it down or even to look at cropping it out to leave the viewer guessing how deep the falls go.

Rendering the image in Monochrome brought out the detail in the cliffs dramatically and was a wise choice.

I award this image a Merit.



Victoria Falls Rainbow

Barbara Herman

The roar of the falls must be amazing and the photographer has been in the right place at the right time to capture the rainbow in the mist from the tumbling waters as the African sun shines down. The image invites speculation as to the time of day from the shade and shadows, encouraging engagement.

With such large volumes of water cascading over the waterfalls I imagine a slow shutter speed was not required as the water appears naturally milky.

It is my opinion that the waterfall and background do not appear to be in sharp focus when they needed to be to complement the rainbow and result in a strong image.

The tumbling cascades and the rainbow with its secondary rainbow are well seen and I appreciate the difficult lighting conditions the photographer had to contend with.

I award this image an Acceptance.



Iguazu Power

Barbara Herman

Power indeed! These raging torrents are amazing and I realised there are many birds flying in the spiraling spray on the right then deep in the canyon there are black dots that may well be birds. There is so much to take in, from the secondary waterfall peeping through the trees on the right to the human element with tourists on the platform at the lower left corner of the image giving an idea of scale.

I feel the image is in soft focus unfortunately possibly due to camera movement and the falls at least needed to be in sharp focus. Looking at the composition I might recommend cropping in from the right edge to remove the three small clouds and secondary waterfall as this results in my eye starting with the falls, following the mist up on the right to the cloud then down again, keeping within the image.

This looks to be an amazing place, the weather is lovely, thank you for sharing your image with us.

I award this image an Acceptance.



Bit of light

Bruce Dorset

Deep in this canyon with the river rushing by the photographer has seen the bright light coming from above. This looks to be an amazing place to explore and I am left wondering whether it was easy to get to or was a long hike.

The bit of light referred to in the title might be a bit too much light as the highlights are overblown in my opinion. It crossed my mind that the photographer may have been trying for a High Key effect; however there is too much black I feel.

Recently I visited the Auckland Museum to see the exhibition celebrating the work of Olaf Petersen, a New Zealand Nature photographer who mainly used Monochrome film and glass plates. His images were sharp in focus and they were successful. The soft focus in this image, coupled with the brightness detracts from what I feel was a good composition with the framing either side of the waterfall and a point of focus with the palm below it.

The creator of the image has captured the isolation and mystery of this place with the sunlight probing down with enough waterfall to satisfy the Set Subject.

I award this image an Acceptance.



s24n\_GentlyFalling.jpg

Linda Sweeney

This is a charming little waterfall, it appears manmade and well planted. If only I had one like this in my garden!

The depth of focus is good and we can appreciate the detail in the rocks and foliage.

In my opinion the photographer might have made a stronger composition by moving slightly to the right so the green leaves on the left do not appear to touch the waterfall yet that may have meant the leaves on the right had to be held back. The shutter speed chosen has resulted in detail in the water cascade and I wonder if a slower shutter speed might have given the milky appearance to the water making the scene stronger.

I feel we are peeping through the plants to a secret waterfall and it makes me feel privileged!

I award this image a Highly Commended.



Where It Lands

Julie Horlock

The turbulence from these cascades must be causing a lot of spray and dampness and I can imagine being there and experiencing the sounds and odours that are usually associated with these surroundings.

The photographer has drawn my attention to where the cascades are landing and there is much going on.

In my opinion the bush on the right edge intrudes into the main cascade and does not help frame the scene. When looking at the torrents I wonder whether the photographer may have tried a longer shutter speed to get more milky water although it is often a personal preference, some people opting for the grainy appearance.

An interesting observation is that there is a charming cameo image within the image at the top left corner although I fear the image may become pixelated when enlarged after cropping.

I award this image an Acceptance.



Piroa Falls

Jack Horlock

This is a wonderful image as we seem to be at water level and peering past the small waterfall to the big falls behind. The detail in the rocks as well as the lichens and mosses add to the spectacle.  
The shutter speed has been well chosen to show the movement of the water without excessive blur and the whole image is sharply in focus.  
A purist might suggest that the bright green foliage at the top left might be cloned out although a small crop in from the left edge might achieve the desired effect more easily.  
I do like this image that the photographer has captured so skillfully and shared with us.  
I award this image Honours.



Rainbow Falls - Waianiawaniwa

Jack Horlock

I am thinking this image shows a much reduced torrent with the falls looking like lace curtains. The clear water and the general detail in the image leave me with a relaxed feeling.  
It is a pleasant walk up the valley to these falls and the photographer has taken the trouble to get down low near the water to take this image.  
The sky appears to be slightly overcast which I believe has led to the lighting being a little flat although the ghost of the waterfall's reflection can be seen.  
In my opinion the composition is good with the foreground shallows taking my eye to the left, across to the shoreline then back to the waterfall.  
I award this image a Highly Commended.



Mono Waterfall

Stacey Townsend

This image is all about textures and lines, tending towards an abstract. The choice of Black and White makes this image.  
The shutter speed chosen is just right in my opinion as a slower speed might have obscured more detail in the heavy flow areas. The trickles and cascades are intriguing.  
The photographer has, I think, darkened the left corners and right lower corner as a partial vignette to champion the cascade. The decision to frame the image with rounded corners is to be acknowledged as we often see Monochrome images that are lost in the black background when projected or viewed in some software.  
I award this image Honours.



Taranaki Waterfall

Stacey Townsend

Surely this must be deep in the forest away from the beaten track in a little glade with the sun shining down to illuminate the scene.  
The creator of the image has composed the image with care, trying to make the most of the shaft of sunlight.  
The slow shutter speed has made the water appear super milky and mysterious although I might suggest cropping the foreground water to the rock base to bring my eye back to the falls and pool. The photographer may have wanted the soft focus while others may expect sharp focus to be more appropriate. In my opinion the lime green leaf on the rock to the left of the waterfall draws attention away from the main subject and the image may have rated higher if it had been edited or removed.  
A crazy thought is whether this image might look good if rendered as Sepia image, it is always worth playing around with the editing apps you have to hand.  
I award this image a Merit.



Wairuawonder N

Andrew Edwards

At first glance I wondered if this image had been given a Sepia filter then realized it was actually the dirty sediment in the water and there is a lot of water pouring down the waterfall.  
The overcast sky suggests this was a difficult day for taking images and has resulted in a very flat or dull appearance and the whole image appears soft in focus. It is my opinion that the choice of shutter speed has resulted in capturing the textures in the water curtains with a loss of detail in the central part possibly due to more spray being in this area.  
Many photographers have experimented with Gray scale rendering or Sepia and I wonder if the photographer might try these to see if a more powerful image results.  
I award this image an Acceptance.



Silksmooth N

Andrew Edwards

From the shaft of sunlight from the top left it appears that this image may have been taken in the evening and I can imagine packing up after a late picnic before returning home.  
The waterfall lives up to the title and looks great with the silky smooth water. The complex tree roots add foreground interest.  
There are a few distractions that I might suggest need adjustment. Cropping in from the left edge and even dividing the tree in this case I feel might remove the bright highlight at the top left and keep us in the image while the green plant on the right edge might be cloned out. The bright sunlight has resulted in unnatural colours to the foliage at the top of the image that might respond to careful burning or a linear filter. Finally the bright stick in the foreground might be cropped out. All of these are minor adjustments that I feel may strengthen the composition.  
The photographer appears to have taken this image from a low down perspective that helps the composition.  
I award this image a Merit.



Waro Falls

Phillip Shaw

This is a delicate cascade with some interesting shaped rocks around. The photographer has discovered a shady valley with the mosses on the rocks and I can imagine it being deep in the forest.  
The shutter speed has been well chosen so give enough blur for movement and not obscure the rocks. I feel the image may have been over saturated in post processing with the greens being quite garish and the foliage in the bottom right corner is quite distracting. I might suggest a crop from the top edge to just below the white topped rock. This leaves the waterfall emerging from the top left corner with no distraction from that rock.



Broken Rock In The Falls

Phillip Shaw

As I appraise this image I feel I am standing in the stream getting wet feet as it has been taken from a low angle.  
The photographer has elected to use a slow shutter speed to create the almost ghostly water that has become the dominant part of the image.  
The sharp focus is on the rock in the foreground and as the subject is waterfalls I might ask the question whether the focus needed to be further back in this case. If they had been accessible the sticks at the top might have been removed from the scene. I believe the yellow leaf in the lower left corner is distracting and a subtle vignette may well improve this image.

			<p>I remember being told that Landscape photographers take forever to compose their shots making small changes in camera position and waiting for the right lighting conditions as well as removing any unwanted items in their way! As I grow older perhaps I will mellow although I felt there was a lot of wasted time during the Landscape courses I attended.</p> <p>I can imagine this image has taken a lot of effort by the photographer the scene is full of potential if revisited.</p> <p>I award this image a Merit.</p>
	s24n_ShimmeringWaters.jpg	Linda Sweeney	<p>I can imagine hearing the gurgle of the water dropping over this delicate waterfall and waiting for the stick to float down until it tumbles over the edge.</p> <p>The waterfall flow suggests a medium shutter speed was chosen that did not produce milky water appearance yet accounts for the movement in the bubbles. The whole image has an almost Impressionist feel, especially the foliage at the top and I wonder if this is Intentional Camera Movement or post processing.</p> <p>The image does have, in my opinion, conflict between the left light side and the right, dark side that might benefit from burning or cropping to balance the composition.</p> <p>However this image was produced I can see the movement in the water and enjoy the reflections in this pleasant scenario.</p> <p>I award this image an Acceptance.</p>
	Stirling Falls	Ruth Mooney	<p>Plummeting 155m these falls are amazing, the sheer power and force is captured well in this image. Being this close up must be deafening and the photographer may have had to protect their equipment from the spray.</p> <p>Beautifully sharp focus, ideal shutter speed despite being on a boat and the balanced composition make this an intriguing image. This appears to be a Monochrome image initially until my eye found the coloured elements on the rock face.</p> <p>The detail in the rocks with the snail trails that I suppose are quartz veins is a real bonus.</p>
	Tawhai Falls	Ruth Mooney	<p>I love this image and have no hesitation in awarding Honours.</p> <p>This is a dark and brooding image capturing these falls which I imagine as a place in Lord of the Rings where Orcs or Dwarves might be found. There is a lot of water pouring over the lip and making a great deal of turbulence below.</p> <p>In my view the patterns in the foreground and what we can see of the foliage behind are interesting, appearing to be Monochrome and possibly a little dark while the waterfall and run off appear selectively coloured.</p> <p>I like the creativity while finding it a cold and un-beguiling image despite the sharp focus and good depth of field.</p> <p>I award this image an Acceptance.</p>
	A Glimpse Beyond The Falls	Julie Horlock	<p>This is an interesting image where we can see the moss covered rocks as well as large logs behind the water curtain as we peer out of the forest from what I imagine is the opposite bank of the river.</p> <p>The sharp focus is from the waterfall to the background and has been well handled, with the shutter speed long enough to stream the water without blocking the detail of the rocks. The foreground foliage frames the subject well.</p> <p>I might suggest the photographer try cropping in from the left edge to the foreground plant to remove the brighter left waterfall and may find it is a stronger composition.</p> <p>I award this image a Merit.</p>
	t54n_AViewFromAbove.jpg	Trent Roberts	<p>Warning! Vertigo attack! This is a fascinating aerial image of the waterfall, whether taken by a drone or the photographer hanging out of a plane, giving so much detail and so many patterns including the spray rainbow on the left.</p> <p>As I appraise this image it is my opinion that the blown out highlights of the main cascades, where all detail is lost leaving white areas, is disappointing. I am afraid this is always difficult to resurrect as you probably know that using the burn tool on highlights results in grey areas.</p> <p>There is the possibility of bracketing exposures to combine them in editing software as long as the camera is in a steady hover!</p> <p>The focus and depth of field is spot on and I guess opportunities like this don't come every day and thank you for sharing with us.</p> <p>I award this image an Acceptance.</p>
	t54n_WaterfallThroughFarmland.jpg	Trent Roberts	<p>This image takes me back to the days when I was learning to be a glider pilot with the magnificent views you get from the air.</p> <p>This is a very pastoral image with the waterfall the main subject then the homestead with its lake above. It looks to be good farmland with verdant green trees and green grazing possibly enhanced by the low sun as adjudged by the long shadows.</p> <p>The blue of the lake is dramatic while all the other colours appear true. It is a lovely scene in my opinion though the area at the bottom of the main falls has blown out highlights leaving white areas with no detail. The high dynamic range is difficult for a camera to handle and apart from HDR imaging not much can be done to avoid the whiteouts.</p> <p>I award this image a Merit.</p>
	Kitekite Waterfall	Christine Anderson	<p>This lacy three tier waterfall down the moss covered rocks is very delicate, certainly no torrent. I can imagine enjoying the sound of the falling water as I set up my camera to capture the image.</p> <p>The photographer has used an effective shutter speed to highlight the water trails without losing detail. The rocks on the right are interesting only nature has let the photographer down with the bare soil patch at top left looking different.</p> <p>I might suggest trying this in Monochrome as it works well in many cases.</p> <p>Do watch for distractions like the white matter in the cave at the bottom right water's edge as once the eye spots it is difficult to ignore.</p> <p>The image has been taken low down to show the height of the falls and is calming and serene.</p> <p>I award this image a Merit</p>
	Quarry Waterfall	Christine Anderson	<p>No pristine water here with the waterfall showing heavy sediment contamination and a really murky pool at the bottom. The cascade is pleasing to the eye on this sunny day and the water has been captured well with movement and no loss of detail.</p> <p>I might suggest that the lilies on the left distract my eye from the waterfall due to their bright red colour and may be toned down a little. There appears to be an attempt at Cloning on the right side of the waterfall where the foliage has a hard linear edge on both sides that is hard to rationalise.</p> <p>This is a pretty little waterfall that tells a story but the only part truly in focus is the top of the waterfall so I feel it loses impact for this reason.</p> <p>I award this image an Acceptance.</p>



Bridal Veil Falls

Aaron Skelton

This brings back memories of the Christchurch PSNZ Convention when earlier in the week we explored the district. It is a fair climb up to the next viewing platform, especially with aching, ageing limbs but well worth it!

The photographer has seen the sunlight making the falls stand out and has positioned them in the middle of the image. The walkway gives interest and context with lines to follow round as well as enjoying the bridge and the stream detail. The human element is acceptable, there seems to be continual debate as to the justification of inclusion of humans in landscape images generally.

I reckon the photographer was standing on the rails to get the bottom of the waterfall just clear of the boardwalk railing. If the bottom of the falls had been lower than the top rail then I believe the composition may have been flawed. Well done!

I award this image Honours.



Whangarei Falls

Aaron Skelton

This image appears to be of a true raging torrent that is surely an amazing spectacle when in full flood. One day I must turn off in Whangarei as I travel North and go to see the Falls myself.

The photographer has captured the wall of water using a shutter speed that shows the different colours of the cascades and reveals many different patterns. The inclusion of the human element gives a sense of scale.

I feel the lighting conditions were challenging down at the water's edge and everything is rather dull and flat unfortunately. I wonder if a Monochrome or Sepia rendering might work well if the contrast was tweaked a little first.

I award this image Highly Commended.



Waterfall

Jenny Dowling

This image might well be the Secret Garden with the gentle waterfall and the water lilies in the foreground. Surely this is not in the wilderness?

The waterfall is captured well with good selection of shutter speed in my view. All the plants and trees are in sharp focus.

The saturated colours in this image lead me to think that post processing has been used to produce a painterly effect. In my view the foreground flowers compete with the main subject a little too much and I wonder if the photographer might explore a crop in from the left edge to strengthen the impact of the image and hero the waterfall.

I commend the photographer on spotting the potential in this scene.

I award this image a Merit.



Marokopa Falls

Coen Cramer

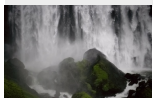
These are majestic Falls with the water tumbling down the sheer rock face then racing away downstream and my mind imagined the early European settlers following rivers inland and what a daunting sight such a waterfall presented.

The point of focus appears to be the foreground and I feel the waterfall needed to be the main point of focus.

I might suggest cropping off the lower portion of the image to remove the eroded area and path down to the river as I believe it will improve the balance of the image.

I can't help wondering how steep the track down to the river is and if it safely negotiable as it offers a different viewpoint of the Falls.

I award this image a Merit.



The Curtain

Coen Cramer

So many questions come to mind as I inspect this image. Is the water flowing away to the right of the image, are we behind the water curtain and how did we get down here? With careful inspection of the shape of the rock I suspect this may be a close up of the Marokopa waterfall which answers my questions!

The patterns in the water curtain are interesting due to the different flows and cascades.

The rock in the foreground is partly obscured by the mist or spray and the part we can see is not in sharp focus and in my view lacks any points of interest.

Unfortunately I do not think there is way to improve this image in post processing and if the photographer had a chance to return to the site then ensuring focus on the rock, waiting to see if the spray or mist dispersed and even introducing their own light with a flash or head torch might result in a stronger image.

I award this image an Acceptance.



Maraetara Falls

Mark Anderson

These are pleasing multi-tiered cascades tumbling gracefully down the rocks. I have a suspicion that there is manmade mischief higher up, is it a dam?

The photographer has made the most of the composition options on offer, I cannot imagine there is a boat to hand or a convenient path to take you round the other side of the river.

The image appears in soft focus which reduces impact in my opinion and the shutter speed may have been a bit too fast as I believe this water might benefit from being milkier.

One advantage of being an appraiser is getting the heads up on exciting photography sites so next time I am headed East I will make a detour!

I award this image an Acceptance



Waipunga Falls

Mark Anderson

What a mighty set of falls captured by the photographer to show the river above the falls and the downstream river as well. I wondered whether this was an aerial image or taken across the valley from a viewing point and some research suggests the latter.

These Falls do not appear to be very easily approached so low angle shots are out! There is a large area of native forest on the left that might be described as negative space that dilutes the impact of the falls however I believe the composition is sound as it shows the isolation and spectacular majesty of these falls.

The Toe Toe blooms give the idea of scale down in the chasm so the image was taken from a long distance away. The lighting is a little flat and I feel it might be worth enhancing the saturation in post processing.

This is an interesting and exciting image that I enjoyed looking through in detail.

I award this image a Highly Commended.



Reflections

Donna Russell

This is a very symmetrical image with many different colours and the contours of the slope combining to form rings of foliage. I find it interesting and enjoyed the game of spot the waterfall!

The lighting is subtle, the reflections true and genuine as shown by the slight ripples. The shoreline positioning across the centre of the image works well.

The slightly soft focus does not worry me too much as the image tends towards the surreal or creative image style.

Where was the photographer standing? On the far bank, in a boat? I love these shots that lead to speculation and engagement with the viewer.

		I award this image a Highly Commended.
Secret Valley	Donna Russell	<p>This valley is likely to remain secret forever with impossible access through steep native forest slopes and the tall mountains behind. Is it possible the image was taken from a boat on a lake or from a position on the far shore?</p> <p>This appears to have been a misty day and the sunbeams are just penetrating though to the mountain tops leaving the majority of the valley and lake in shade. In my opinion this results in the muted colours and a very hazy appearance that is always difficult to capture accurately. I feel the valley needed to be brighter especially around the waterfall to make the image stronger as the wooded slopes on either side of the valley are the dominant feature in this image.</p> <p>The composition gives the idea of isolation and the inhospitable terrain where the valley is reminding us how beautiful our backyard is and why so many people long to visit New Zealand.</p> <p>I award this image a Merit.</p>