

Image	Grade	Title	Comments
	Novice	Demolition Day.	A great subject to photograph well framed, there are different elements in this image the levels of transparency in the broken glass are interesting making it an intriguing subject. However the back portion of the image is not sharp and that is the area that draws your eye first to look at. If you are able and have a suitable programme you could try focus stacking this technique is not just for macro photography there are lots of tutorials on youtube. Well done. MERIT
	Novice	Fading Glory	Lovely image good Depth of Field and well titled, your image is Nice and sharp showing through and some random seed stalks visible in that area. You do have a dark area showing top right which is distracting this needed to be removed also there is a line left behind from cloning on the left it is a good idea to view an image at 100% to make sure you have cleaned up and finished off cloning clearly. A lovely image well executed. HIGHLY COMMENDED
	Salon	Dad Its Too Big For Me	You have a charming image. The title and the expression of the little girl walking away from the barrow tell the story. Your point_of focus appears to be on the barrow rather than the little girl, but the title suggests she is the main subject however the child has only been given a small space in the image, suggesting the oversized wheelbarrow is the subject. The title also suggests the image is about the child. The image has been cropped tight at the top consider giving the whole image more room to breathe. <u>MERIT</u>
	Salon	Sth.Africa-Namibia Borderlands	The way the image has been exposed suggests an opportunity missed. There is a great deal of difference between the two parts of the image. A bracketed exposure would have balanced the parts of the image in sunlight and shadow. The colour on the rocks is stunning and you are definitely there at the right time of day. The plateau in the distance is dreamlike and lovely. The rocks closest to the viewer do not look sharp or have been over-processed. Perhaps trying a crop to the left-hand third so that the deep vertical shadows are left in the rock face? Doing this also brings the viewer's focus back to the beautiful rocks fanning out into the valley in a V shape. <u>Merit</u>
	Intermediate	South Island Sunset	Trees follow the road giving it leading lines this is an interesting approach to the subject and nicely sharp throughout, however there is not much of interest in the third of the image. A step to the right and a square crop and take it as a long exposure to show lines from the car headlights would have made a more interesting image. Accepted

	Intermediate	Frosty Morning	Love the snowy mountain backdrop to this image. The low angle of the light provides a lot of depth. However the fence gives a good leading line into the screen, however the slush presumably this is frost and the reeds give a messy foreground. Try a square crop up to the base of the first post this then shifts the focus back to the mountains away from the wet reeds. Merit
	Salon	Heron	Great composition and exposure. Good depth of field, focus is spot on good sharp feathers and the water droplets providing some action to the image this is not easy to capture when taking bird photos. The whole image looks like a painting. <u>Well done</u> <u>Highly Commended</u>
	Salon	Tuatara	Excellent exposure, composition and focus, colours and texture are visible. The shallow depth of field really adds some drama to the image as does the catch light in the eye. The background is well handled. A well-deserved - Honours
	Salon	Waipu Cove Panorama	This image is well done and the arc over the trees is well planned and taken. The left hand side is a bit dark the lights on the right are taking the attention but this did not take away the beauty of the image. <u>Highly Commended</u>
	Salon	Milky Way Over The Moon	This image is next level. Great lead in. The foreground is sharp, the eye is led into the image along the rocks, the long exposure (or combining of many images) has smoothed out the sea, there are three lights to give interest (Rock light, Venus and the Moon) and the whole image is finished with a glorious milky way. Well done, well-composed, technically well done and visually effective and communicating a story – I believe that is the wolf rock howling at the moon. <u>Your image has the quality we would all like to achieve and for this you have earned a score not given lightly. - Honours Plus</u>
	Salon	Aster On Books	The New & Old look work well together, the still life is well handled with a complimentary colour palette, good lighting and nice frame but it is cropped a little tight and the depth of field is too shallow for this style of image. However here is a query to think about - There are questions left unanswered- why is the aster on the books, how do the books relate to the aster. Suggested the books could be exchanged for old gardening books or a book of poems with a focus on flowers? This would give context to the connection between the elements in the images. <u>- Merit</u>

	Salon	Egmont Lighthouse	A panorama of bright colours. Excellent composition the square crop works very well and the bales in the foreground provide some depth to the image a slightly tighter crop from the bottom and right to remove negative space and provide some more symmetry to the bales. This would push the viewer's focus to the lighthouse and the dramatic sky. Also lift the exposure a little. <u>Well seen Merit</u>
	Novice	Benmore Fire	The title says it all. Excellent capture and well-handled exposure. The colours are amazing in this image. Often an image like this will benefit from having the horizon placed on the third – which can give the image more energy. It is also a good idea to use the straightening tool in either Lightroom or Photoshop and it does have a slight lean. A slower shutter speed to smooth out the water and smear the clouds slightly would lift this image even further. <u>Well done Merit</u>
	Novice	Benmore Sunrise	You have managed to capture nice reflections in the water. Good composition and sharp with nice leading lines into the picture the focus is slightly soft and a more balanced exposure would be good, as with the previous image a slower shutter speed would enhance the image and in this case a bracketed exposure would bring more of the landscape into the picture. Again the colours are really eye-catching. This image has several advantages over the previous. The Horizon is straighter and the horizon is placed slightly lower than the centre and the composition feels tighter as a result. The reflection is great and appears to have depth. The snowy mountain feels like an Easter egg when you see it although there was discussion about it being a snowy mountain or white clouds. <u>A really great effort Highly Commended</u>
	Salon	Looking across to the Sand Hill	A moody landscape that lets us know that winter is coming. The use of a fast shutter speed has nicely frozen the movement of the blowing sand. The patterns of sand and water on the beach lead the viewer's eye to the lighter sand hill and are further enhanced by the layers in the image. A crop from the top so that the sand hill appears on the top third provides a much better balance to the image. <u>Merit</u>
	Salon	The wind Blows Sand	A nice sharp image composed with the straight horizon almost on the top third. There are some great elements in this image, the sand looks magical as it blows across the surface and the blue sky with its white fluffy clouds and the green water running alongside. However it is slightly under exposed and there is no definite subject so your eye was wandering about with nothing to land on. Sometimes, as in this case, the combined effect is a bit confusing. Focusing on one element would have helped. There is a lovely round rock on the left hand side, could the photographer have made that the foreground and captured the wind blowing the sand around it? This looks like there were so many possibilities and the scene may be worth another visit. <u>Acceptance</u>
	Intermediate	Mr Scruffy	Nice sharp image, well exposed and a nice catch light in the eye. With lovely details in the feathers a very interesting subject? A larger aperture narrower depth of field might have provided more separation of the bird from the background. The low angle helps bring the bird into the image and the bird is moving right to left in the frame so a little more space on the left would provide somewhere for him to move into. However you do have a cloning problem on the leaves. A reminder when cloning it pays to check your work at 100% to make sure you have cleaned up properly. <u>Accepted</u>

	Intermediate	Hazy Waitakere Vista	<p>Here we have a large landscape with lots of leading lines and different shades with a wide-angle view, it is great to see a different view of the Waitakere area. Although the viewer's eye is led into the image it is then led out to sea with nowhere to rest other than to return to the estuary and do it again. There is no foreground interest suggest you compose with some foreground interest and have a specific point of interest deeper in the image for the viewer to land on. It is not always possible to be in the right place at the right time. You could go back and do it again.</p> <p><u>Acceptance</u></p>
	Salon	bellbird	<p>In amongst the Lavender out pops a Bell Bird. You have a great composition, focus and exposure. The narrow depth of field lifts the bird from the surrounding lavender and the catch light in the eye is the finishing touch. The subject of the image is very clear to the viewer and the background has colour and interest without taking over the image, with one lavender stalk sharp and the Bellbird is pin sharp.</p> <p><u>A very well deserved Honours</u></p>
	Salon	saddleback	<p>A great bird photo taken from below the bird. Background not cluttered leaving a clean background. A back lit black subject is not an easy one to deal with and this has been done very well. Focus is spot on too, a tighter crop would make it easier for the viewer to engage with the bird and make it appear less dark. You have captured your Saddleback out in the open which is great, the eye and head are very much in focus and the pollen adds a little something extra to the image. These birds are not easy to photograph out in the open well done.</p> <p><u>Highly Commended</u></p>
	Novice	Dancing lupins	<p>A long exposure of flowers well exposed of pastel colours. A good attempt at using a slow shutter speed to achieve an abstract result. You could try an even longer shutter speed and compose for a balance of colours that provide a point of focus for the viewer. Did you consider adding some dodging and burning to the image which could have introduced depth and added to the interest of the image? Not heavy only at 9% have a look on youtube for some ideas or ask others for ideas on how to do this. It could be a topic for a workshop night if enough people are interested.</p> <p><u>Well done Highly Commended</u></p>
	Novice	Hoist The Moon	<p>Beautiful colours to set the scene a clever idea and well executed. Well seen and taken, the moon was very obliging and you have captured the lights on the bridge well and the colour in the sky. It feels like the image may be cropped a bit tight as the forefront looks interesting. However, this may have been unavoidable. Try this idea again but be much further away from your foreground subject and use a telephoto lens. The moon will be much larger in the image and provide a better contrast with your subject.</p> <p><u>Great Idea Highly Commended</u></p>

	Novice	Rainbow Dash	Town Basin lit up with many colours at Dusk. Good subject and the reflections are captured nicely. The colours pop in this image; you have told us what I should be looking at by cropping the sky down. However you needed a smaller aperture for a much larger depth of field, and a slower shutter speed to allow lower ISO to reduce noise and smooth out the water enhancing the reflections. There are a couple of bright lights in the darkest area under the bridge that are distracting and could have been cloned out. There is also a fair amount of digital noise in the image, some people don't worry about this but it is a good idea to know what it looks like and how you would remove it if required. There is software "Topaz noise reduction" or you could take the time to find out how high you can put up your ISO before your camera sensor starts to show noise in the image (each camera is different). Lightroom and Photoshop also can do a good job of reducing noise in an image. <u>Well done Merit</u>
	Intermediate	Lavender Lights	Very well composed good use of Depth of field. Great pastel colour giving harmony. It's Nice to have a different technique or style to review. The lavender stalks burst outwards from the bottom centre of the image but the viewer's focus is held by the lighter centre and the single clearer flower. The light is nicely placed. The image has had a filter of stylised treatment placed on it. Try viewing from a couple of steps back. I wondered what this would look like printed big. <u>A very well deserved Honours</u>
	Intermediate	A bushman's pillow	This shrub does look like a pillow the focus is sharp revealing the fine detail. However the image is under exposed making it a bit flat. Also it could do with a tighter crop and before taking the shot, it pays to look around as this pillow could have done with a bit of a clean-up before taking the shot. Add a bit of side light to give more depth. <u>Accepted</u>
	Intermediate	Land of the short fluffy cloud.	Good depth of field and sharp throughout. Those clouds are amazing and your eye goes straight to them you have captured the light and the headland. Nice capture and well composed too. Low ISO and small aperture have produced a clean sharp image as this was a difficult time of the day. Try this style of image early in the morning or late afternoon. A query for you is the image cropped too tight on the left-hand side would it have been better to let the slope be complete? <u>Merit</u>
	Intermediate	Bar-tailed Godwit	Nicely focused and balanced image its sharp with a nice catch light in the eye. Push the exposure, contrast, texture and DE haze just slightly in post to make the subject pop. The godwits are so unusual and interesting, you have captured this one and it would look good in a book! Wondering what happened after the image was taken, did the bird move away or towards you. Did it start to look for food etc.? As it is the image is quite static. <u>Merit</u>