























Results – Something Broken – 23.14

	<p><b>01n – Split Apple Rock</b> – I haven't managed to visit this yet and every time I see pictures, I am reminded that I really must go. This is nicely seen, the angle chosen by the author show the split apple well and lets us see inside the apple. I feel that we don't need quite so much of the water. I would suggest a decent crop off the bottom, perhaps as much as half of the water. It would pay to boost the shadows in post-production to add most detail into the darker areas of rocks. If you are using Lightroom, the shadow slider can be pushed right to achieve this. The detail in the rock of the apple and the angle chosen is to be commended. <i>Honours.</i></p>
	<p><b>02s – Cleft of Ages</b> – This looks to me to be one of the concretions at Moeraki. (It is actually in the Hokianga.) They are fascinating and always grab our attention as they are so unusual. I like the way the photographer has filled the frame, there isn't much to look at here and simplifying the image helps to keep the viewer looking where we want. One small area that might be improved is the bright grass in the top left. I feel that could be darkened using the burn tool in post-production to prevent this area catching the eye. There is wonderful detail and clarity in the rock. <i>Merit.</i></p>
	<p><b>03s – Broken Beyond Repair</b> – Wow, this really is beyond repair. I am not sur this composition is as strong as it could be. It can be hard when we find a great location to then find the best angle and I often find I need to go back more than once. Of course, that's not always possible and the next best thing is to really linger and stroll the perimeter a bunch of times. I can see why the author was attracted to the scene. I just don't see very much value being added to the scene, it becomes more of a record shot. The image is very well processed, and the colours are lovely. <i>Accepted.</i></p>
	<p><b>04s – A Grave Situation</b> – I always find it really sad when I see a grave that ss fallen into disrepair. Once this was a sacred place that held real meaning to someone who was left behind and look at it now. I feel as photographer we really do have an important role to play in recording everyday life. This is well seen and a nice concept. I feel the border would be strong with a little more breathing space. The metal railing is very close to the edge and gives the impression that the subject has been cut short. Some subjects work well like that but this has a feel of needing all of the story. Don't be afraid to check your screen when shooting. Take a bunch of viewpoints and crops so you have options for processing. I like where the author is heading with this concept. <i>Merit.</i></p>
	<p><b>05s – Light Out</b> – I am assuming this was staged like this rather than opportunistic. My first ever photo shoot when I was maybe 6 or 7 was of a lightbulb and a rubber plant, so this triggered some happy memories for me. I feel that the subject has been positioned well and shot well. I would probably suggest a little more space around the edges, especially on the right-hand side. The black and white treatment works really well for this, and the choice of the towelling background. <i>Merit.</i></p>
	<p><b>06i_Catholic Basilica</b> – This building had definitely seen better days, hasn't it? I think this is a good idea and it has all of the components needed. Sadly, it is let down by the way the author has framed the image. The cross on the left is neither in nor out of the frame and acts as a break in the frame that draws my eye away from the main subject. I would also like to have seen the top of the green dome. I did wonder if there was alternate frame within just the really badly damaged wall on the right. There is lots of potential here and it is a rally great spot to shoot. The author has seen something here and I would encourage them to have another go at this location. <i>Accepted.</i></p>
	<p><b>07i_Hotel Grand Chancellor</b> – I know this spot well. I was staying opposite one night when they had a bad fire on the roof. At first glance it's easy to think the author has missed the main damaged and that the frame is filled with the 'good' building. Then on further inspection I started to see the wavy lines and very clear signs of earthquake damage. The processing is a little flat but maybe that's appropriate given the subject. <i>Merit</i></p>
	<p><b>08s_CarPut</b> – I shoot lots of old cars so this instantly grabbed my attention from that perspective, but I feel it would catch most people's attention anyway. I love how this has been processed, black and white works well for old wrecks and the added contrast in the sky really pops. The composition is spot on and shows careful thought has gone into the layout. Wonderful! <i>Honours.</i></p>

	<p><b>09s_Tanked</b> - Aren't the colours beautiful. I have similar images from a trip to Smash palace. The reds we get in old rusty steel is often super vibrant. This is a rather simple frame without distractions, but I do feel it feels more like a cool background that's missing a hero subject. <i>Merit</i></p>
	<p><b>10s_Ye Old Broken Wheel</b> – this fits the set subject well and the geometric shapes work well. On my screen the image seems a touch too bright. This does look like a mid-day shot looking at the shadows and the light is rather harsh. I feel this would benefit from being shot on a cloudy day or later in the day. I do like the shape of the wheel with the missing segment. It is well placed. <i>Accepted.</i></p>
	<p><b>11s_Broke Light</b> – I was rather mesmerised by this image. It's hard to tell if it is a composite, a double shot or just a trick of the light. We often talk about avoiding text as it can be distracting but there are always exceptions to every rule. Here the text adds a layer of interest with repetition and the text has been very well placed. The mixture of colours and textures works very well. <i>Honours.</i></p>
	<p><b>12s_Broken Light at the Civic Centre</b> – I often enjoy when people take a theme and try to think laterally and come up with alternate meanings. This is a great example of that kind of thinking. I love the repeating shapes and patterns. I do find myself wanting another element, something that breaks the rhythm of the light and shade. The distressed style of processing works well for this image. <i>Merit.</i></p>
	<p><b>13s_Broken Window</b> – When I look at this, I really hope this was taken from the shore and that the window on a ferry isn't broken. Broken glass typically makes for interesting images. I wonder if the brightness of the boats in the background makes them a little distracting by comparison to the fractured glass which in itself is enough for the set subject. The lines of the glass are well-lit and nice and sharp. <i>Accepted.</i></p>
	<p><b>14s_Fallen Tree</b> – I guess we have all seen a lot of damaged trees this year. I know I've seen more than my fair share here in Kaiwaka. This is an interesting scene as the tree shows the destructive power of nature while the colour palette is calm and soft, almost pastel-like. I find the framing to be very tight on this and feel this could have been stronger if we had all of the trunk, rather than starting part way along the trunk. The grass in the foreground is beautiful. <i>Merit.</i></p>
	<p><b>15s_Wind Damage</b> – More storm damage! These record shots of the weather events really do show just how badly things can get bent or broken. I feel this image was taken at the wrong time of day. The light has a very high contrast, and the image is very bright in the highlights. I would suggest pulling the highlights down in post-processing. When taking an image like this it is really important to be hyper-critical of elements in the background. The houses are not adding anything here and had the author stepped to their fight and maybe lowered themselves slightly, the houses would have been hidden. This would simplify the image and force all of the viewers' attention onto the tree. <i>Accepted.</i></p>
	<p><b>16n_Field of Forgotten Dreams</b> – A couple of real 'projects' in the making here. I love old cars; these push my buttons. The cars are nicely placed for an image, we don't get to control their placement too much and I doubt they are running. In a perfect world the large tree wouldn't be there or the green building, but sometimes you have to work with what you've got. I feel like the horizon is not quite level and a small tweak would make the cars feel more comfortable. I don't feel we need quite so much of the grass; I would suggest a very small crop off the bottom. The processing is nice, and the colours have been well handled especially for what looks like quite a bright day. <i>Merit.</i></p>

	<p><b>17n_ Ye Olde Resting Place_m</b> – This is a very good subject for the topic of something broken. I think the idea for a very distressed style of processing was good, however, I feel that the author has taken it too far in this instance. The highlights are very bright and in the top left area is very distracting. Our eyes are naturally drawn to the brightest part of an image and that means we are no longer looking at the bench which is where we are supposed to look. I would suggest pulling back the highlights quite a bit. The composition is good, and the bench has been well-placed in the frame. <i>Acceptance.</i></p>
	<p><b>18s_ See, I am Broken</b> – I am assuming from the layout that this is done for the set subject and I really appreciate the effort. I wonder if the blue stem might be stronger either with a gap between it and the clear glass or tucked further in. For me, that's one of the great things about building an image - you get full control of the layout. The colours are strong and interesting. I am not sure exactly where I should be looking, the blue base seems to be the sharpest area, and so that is where my eye goes, but my mind wonders if I am supposed to be looking at the red liquid left in the glass which is sharp but is a smaller area. It has to really fight for my attention. I think maybe a deeper depth of field would have helped and assuming this was taken on a tripod then that should have been easy enough to at least try. I really value when anyone does this sort of work as there is so much more work and upfront effort in planning and executing an image. <i>Honours.</i></p>
	<p><b>19s_ Written Off</b> – This car is definitely beyond repair. The image looks like it may have been over-processed. That sort of this can be subjective and could be personal taste. I find the areas around the sunroof have broken down and show signs of halos and other artifacts. These don't work in my opinion and I find them very distracting. <i>Accepted.</i></p>
	<p><b>20s_ Missing Lace</b> – Three is the magic number as they say. I really enjoy this image; the layout is strong. The contrast of the white elements on a dark and sympathetic background demands our attention. The texture of the wood works well against the flaky paint giving us natural and man-made items alongside each other. <i>Honours</i></p>
	<p><b>21i_ Beyond Repair</b> – I assume this is some sort of pressure gauge. I really don't know for sure; I love that in an image. The processing on the rust is very good and the colour palette works well. It looks to me like the background has been cut out and around the right-hand edge of the gauge has an outline from this. The background is pure black, I always recommend against doing this as we rarely see pure black in real life and whilst we might not be able to put our finger on why, our brain picks up on this and tells us something is off. I always suggest selecting the darkest colour in the image to fill with as this will typically work better. The square crop really works well with the concentric circles. <i>Merit.</i></p>
	<p><b>22i_ A Force Applied on Laminated Glass</b> – When I look at this I think of a slide in the microscope or of ice in a puddle with bubbles under the surface. Often, we talk about avoiding placing things in the middle of the frame, but here it works well with the square crop. I felt like I would like to see more contrast and more dynamic range in the image. It tends towards the grey which may not make the most of the highlights in the fractured lines. <i>Merit</i></p>