

TIN CAN BAY CAMERA CLUB_2025 DIGITAL COMP_POINTS AWARDS & JUDGE'S CRITIQUE/COMMENTS					
MONTH: July					
SUBJECT: Black & White					
JUDGE: Maureen Carthy					
Member ID	Member Name	Image Title	Points	Award	Judge's Comments
A GRADE					
26A	Leigh	Beach Walk	3	MERIT	<p>The photographer was very quick to react and has successfully captured an artistic beach scene, one many of us would be familiar with. I believe your work needs a few tweaks to take it to the next level, I would suggest you reconsider your composition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think you need all that space behind the child? • Do you believe it could be enhanced if she was placed in the bottom right-hand corner of the frame? <p>It looks like you may have lightened only the child in the image. To create a more natural effect, consider brightening parts of the beach as well so everything blends better; otherwise, the child appears to be the only element glowing in the evening light. However, this is a pleasing monochrome conversion well done.</p>
20A	Cheryl	Bridge Arches	5	SILVER	<p>This bridge is visually striking, I doubt if any photographer could resist capturing it and what a great find. The structure on the left, works to hold the viewer in the frame and the prominent old-fashioned lamp, anchors the composition and prevents the viewer's eye from drifting out of the frame. Although the city on the left adds context, I would suggest cropping to the second supporting frame to remove the city. This focuses our attention entirely on the walkway and gives the lamp a stronger compositional role, it is then supported by the one on the right a tad further into the frame and the person in the distance. Have a look and see what you think, having said this you have given us a wonderful work that could do well in an architectural competition.</p>
21A	John	Calm and Confident	4	BRONZE	<p>This is an excellent monochrome conversion with strong blacks and a well-chosen aperture that creates a pleasing bokeh, that has allowed the horse to appear as if it's leaping from the frame – this is wonderful work. However, the girl's expression seems out of place and hopefully, you have other captures where she looks a tad more focused.</p>
19A	Jacquie	Ceder Pocket Dam	2	ACCEPTANCE	<p>Looking at your photo, the reflections in the water below the waterline are visually striking, while the upper section lacks contrast and feels disconnected. Cropping the top doesn't resolve this, as the post is the only clear subject. To emphasise the post, consider shooting from a lower angle or applying a vertical crop to just the area below the waterline, centring the post for greater impact. I know this is quite a radical idea, as clearly you liked this image a lot as you wouldn't have entered it otherwise.</p>
01A	Cathy	Come In and Browse	4	BRONZE	<p>The splendid, curved lines in this architectural capture creates a sense of movement and flow, and the escalators in the background provide a clear focal point. The modular design of the panels at the top of the structure are a pleasing composition element. The foreground is a tad too tightly cropped I feel, and showing more of it might enhance the overall balance. There is so much to see and enjoy in your work and demonstrates thoughtful composition.</p>

27A	Sue	Fence Post Artistry	5	SILVER	This black and white image has been successfully post-processed, I see striking contrast and texture, with deep blacks that highlight the central cracks. Upon closer inspection you may see more than just the top of a fence post, let your imagination run wild. I would recommend making the vignetted corners as uniform as possible, as the darker bottom right area stands out a tad. Overall, this is a strong work, with impact and I would suggest considering entering it into other competitions.
20A	Cheryl	Flamingo Family	4	BRONZE	The photographer chose an excellent vantage point and what a pleasing composition, I am envious. The background shrubbery gives it a finishing touch. However, before submitting this into other competitions, I recommend using a brush to darken some of the foreground water and reduce highlights on the birds' backs and necks. Black and white images require texture and detail, and this has been lost in the whites of the birds. With more work in post-processing, this image could be elevated significantly I believe, this is great work.
10A	Maureen	Got a Bite	3	MERIT	Silhouetted figures are effective in black and white photography, and you framed the children well. The beach angle and wave movement work nicely to make this work successful. But adding a curve to the fishing rod could enhance the composition and work nicely with the angle of the child and strengthen the story. The other children look posed, but overall, it's a strong idea and worth revisiting, especially if this shot was taken spontaneously and not set up even so I would consider setting it up – go for it I say.
01A	Cathy	Hanging On	3	MERIT	I know how difficult these shots are, I spent a day at the Mareeba rodeo last weekend, 600 images later. Balancing the ISO, aperture and shutter speed to freeze the movement as you hope for the action, to come in your direction to establish a connection with the viewer and don't forget to have the focus tracking. What gives your work a story, is the presence of a support person entering the frame as this adds the interaction to the image, especially when the main subject is facing away from us as it is here. The diffused effect applied to the background appears strong and for me is distracting, retaining some of the background story such as other photographers capturing the event, could have been a positive inclusion I believe. But I bet you had a lot of fun and it looks like a great day.
27	Sue	Letting Off Steam	6*	GOLD	A very nicely processed black and white work, I can see that you put a fair amount of consideration and work into this capture as I see that there is a brilliant range of monochrome tones. Even the light pattern on the textured footpath works, there appears to have been an artistic texture applied to the background, but it hasn't impacted on the steam which is brilliant. I believe it may have required a suitcase or something of that nature on the footpath to add to the story, but as it is, it is still a worthy work that is well done.
25A	Greg	Racing	3	MERIT	I pondered your work for some time; in fact, I've come back to it several times. Horse racing makes for excellent black and white captures, I have many. And while I understand what you're trying to say here, I feel that it just doesn't work. It may be that there isn't enough dust, and I can't help but to focus on the gate, when you wanted me to focus on the horses leaving the gate. I suspect that the idea is possibly sound, it maybe that the formation of the horses is not ideal. Maybe you only needed a couple of horses at the back, as if they were left behind and the rest have bolted so I believe that your idea is worth investigating further.

25A	Greg	Sea Side	2	ACCEPTANCE	Framing can be a useful compositional tool and certainly as a photograph of a location it tells us that there is a fence, that stops the viewer and the public from going any further. You've called the work seaside, and we can see a pleasing sea scape in the background. The foreground of the work is the subject, a fence which here is a barrier to us getting to the seaside. I also believe your capture may have been stronger in colour, we all know that not all colour images convert magnificently to black and white sometimes a work requires colour to support it.
10A	Maureen	Show Ride	3	MERIT	WOW, there is a lot of movement and action happening here. The show ride appears like a dancer on a stage; the photographer has done well to capture it. It's a pity, there was something interfering with the vision on the bottom right, wouldn't it have been nice to have seen the movement patterns extending through that area, like those under the ride. I would consider darkening down the blacks a tad for greater impact. Having seen many images of rides at night, I can see that yours was brilliantly captured, I bet it was magnificent in colour.
04A	Julie	Spinning Wheel	5	SILVER	This is a suitable subject for the theme and the photographer positioned themselves well to give us a creative view of the movement. And it is all about the movement, which brings the spinning wheel to life. Some of the other elements within the frame are not as sharp as they could be, but having said that it adds to the atmosphere, a historical ghostly feeling. Maybe a little more work could be done in some areas not all to emphasise the black remember black gives a feeling of depth, so maybe some increased black from the bottom graduating it towards the centre of the frame, have a look and see what you think, certainly consider removing the light spot in the bottom right just as a finishing touch. You found a different and brilliant subject and treated it well, this is nice work.
21A	John	That Hurt	6	GOLD	Like the earlier rodeo image, sporting photography can be challenging because you don't always have nice bright light to allow us to capture the movement, without tinkering with the ISO. The photographer here has captured the movement brilliantly, once again the gentleman in the background supports the story, he is looking on as we are. Maybe cropping half the space on the right would strengthen the work and would emphasise the space on the left-hand side and, support the fact that the action has been stopped from traveling into the right by the players this is just a thought.
26A	Leigh	The City	3	MERIT	The photographer found an ideal subject, that has been nicely processed. I see that the background buildings are full of lines and patterns and even the footpath leading ahead of us, has nice reoccurring patterns on the floor and ceiling that support this architectural image. I just wish that you had waited until the lady had gone. The two people at the end of the walkway, help to give us a feeling of size to the structure which works nicely. I can't help but notice the out of focus lady in the foreground and I feel the work would be considerably stronger without her. There are tools in post processing these days, that can be used to remove people, most competitions disallow the use of AI to do this I would suggest you check with your competition manager to see if it is allowed in this case.

19A	Jacquie	Tinny Golf Club	5	SILVER	There is lot of magic in this image and the reflection is perfect and it jumps off the screen as the subject, the work has been nicely post processed. I'm just wondering why the photographer chose to leave any of the bank in the foreground. I believe that removing it would enhance the work further, if you didn't want to remove it consider darkening it down to black, it grabbed my attention and given, that it's in the foreground it is noticeable. Such a well seen subject it just proves that there is beauty all around us – this is stunning.
04A	Julie	Working Hands	5	SILVER	An ideal subject as it works well in monochrome, as the photographer wanted and successfully emphasise the hands and the movement. We don't want the colour of what the person is wearing or anything in the background distracting from the activity, this was well considered. The compositional choice was excellent, as the photographer has come in close, so we focus on the movement of the clay and the strength of the hands. I feel as if I can almost reach in and touch that clay myself. Please consider darkening down the leg in the background, keeping the focus on the foreground is what you want.

AB GRADE

17AB	Wendy	Black and White Cow	2	ACCEPTANCE	Your effort in producing this work is noted and the cow is ideally placed in the frame and dominates which is great. It may be beneficial to consult with more experienced photographers regarding post processing techniques. The image has strong contrast, and the background supports the subject nicely. However, there appears to be a lack of detail in the animal's coat, which may be related to exposure settings and the treatment of highlights during post processing. In black and white photography, balance between black and white is important; I see this in your background. However, the animal itself is lacking detail in the whites and the same could be said for some of the black areas. However, it does remind we of some the vintage captures of the early photographers.
17AB	Wendy	Cobys Transport	5 *	SILVER	The lighting in your capture creates effective modelling on the vehicle. Some highlights are overexposed, but I will forgive you this being a B Graders the next step for you is learning how to use your histogram which can help manage highlight detail in future shots. The panoramic format was well considered and strengthens the composition. When you become comfortable with editing, consider removing the vehicle in the top right; it could be replaced with more grass or darkened. The framing includes vehicles parked in the background, incorporating their headlights into the scene supports the subject nicely.
08AB	Maree	Picked Up	3	MERIT	The photographer found a strong subject and it is well placed in the frame. The mangroves behind the boat provide an ideal distraction-free background. For greater impact, try photographing from a lower angle to avoid showing the unnecessary background above the mangroves. You might also crop just above the mangroves to a panoramic format. Please reduce highlights to recover lost detail in the sand and boat roof. If you can't lower the highlights further, try reducing exposure and raise shadows—this may help recover the details. I can see the subject was not shot at the ideal time of day, if possible, try again in the early morning or evening.

08AB	Maree	Pray For Us	3	MERIT	I can understand why you wanted to capture this charming church. Black and white conversions generally work nicely for architectural photos because it highlights structural details without colour distractions. Photographing the shadow side of the building has resulted in an image with little contrast and a lack of texture due to the lower light, selecting a vantage point where the sunlight cuts across the subject reveals more detail and texture and is ideal for B & W. Your position might have worked in colour and having no clouds to fill some of the sky lessens its impact.
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