

TIN CAN BAY CAMERA CLUB_2025 DIGITAL COMP_POINTS AWARDS & JUDGE'S CRITIQUE/COMMENTS					
MONTH: November					
SUBJECT: Open Colour 2025					
JUDGE: Robert Cullen					
Member ID	Member Name	Image Title	Points	Award	Judge's Comments
A GRADE					
21A	John	A Bolt From Above	4	BRONZE	The incredible force of nature is surely impressive. Captured at the right moment requires some expertise in technique (or a lot of good luck- in my experience) to get a flash like this. BOM would surely like this. It seems the power of subject matter is more important here than artistic merit.
21A	John	Adrenaline Rush	5	SILVER	Done well to capture the rider and bike nice and sharply focussed with just enough blur of the background to keep our vision on the rider. As a suggestion you might have darkened the background slightly- especially the foreground below the fence post. Image composition and positioning of the rider in the frame suits the moving subject.
20A	Cheryl	And the Bull Wins	5	SILVER	It is not often we like to see people distractions in the background but I like this row of faces and hats with their concerned expressions- even the bull watching through the rails. The action is certainly caught at an opportune moment- focused and placed well in the frame.
01A	Cathy	Back to Front	5	SILVER	It's a seagull, yes, but nicely framed in the square format and when viewed full screen it shows the nice detail in the feathers. The pose of the bird helps the composition - is that like a Golden Spiral I see? Background is suitably blurred and I like to see a little (blue) colour rather than a blank white 'sky', and just enough of rocky foreground.

07A	Lynn	Beautiful	3	<b>MERIT</b>	Yes, nature is beautiful. I did sense, when viewed full screen, that the composition of the two outer blooms both pointing out of the frame tended to divide the image- Maybe three blooms (one green, two white) might also make a nice composition. Well exposed and nice and sharply focused throughout- the DOF well managed. Two very minor suggestions- Clone over the white spot in top right corner, and maybe brush out the stalks leading out of the frame in the extreme right to preserve a total dark background.
10A	Maureen	Blue Ducky	3	<b>MERIT</b>	Can we become indifferent about seeing light-painting effects as a trend in image topics? But then there is a rubber ducky- something different. An impressive light array, nicely framed square, and with a stroke border to delineate the black of the image from a black screen.
26A	Leigh	Cape Baron Geese	3	<b>MERIT</b>	Perhaps the framing has been a crop from a larger image size, as I see a softness of feather detail where better sharpness might have improved this shot. To the bird photographer species and action are currently the ideal aims for a good shot. Here is a nice pair of birds both looking to the centre of the frame, well composed in the almost square format, and with a suitable background of green.
26A	Leigh	Daybreak	4	<b>BRONZE</b>	Perhaps the dog is a family pet that gives it some significance in the shot yet I think the simplicity of the sunrise, waves, and a sandy beach could stand alone without 'spot'. Or, crop a quarter off the left of frame and make a nice "L" composition of Sun, Dog, and beach debris in an almost square frame. Lovely colours and good exposure to hold both beach and sky without clipped bright spots.

19A	Jacquie	Explosion of Light	3	<b>MERIT</b>	Thankfully there appears to be a nice swirl, or even a heart shape that means the blue lights are framed well, although if one area were more prominent by colour or brightness it might give a centre-of-interest that attracts the eye rather than an overall repetition of lights. There is good colour saturation and the sparkly yellow lines have not burnt out retaining colour. Fascinating stuff to see moving lights as a single 'moment in time' in the one image.
07A	Lynn	Floating Home	6	<b>GOLD</b>	Hardly noticeable but a little extra vertical transformation would keep the structures in the far left of the photo truly vertical. An excellent social documentary comment on the lives of people we rarely encounter, and a person leaning on a rail would just 'add the icing' to a great shot. I do like the triangular composition of the building and the colour that looks true and not over-saturated. The flowers (and a cat) on the balcony showing the pride of the owners.
04A	Julie	Follow the Path	5	<b>SILVER</b>	A good 'leading lines' shot with the path (and fence) accentuated by the yellow ground leaves and a brighter spot at the end of the path. An excellent range of green tones in all the foliage and very little sky bright spots to distract. Nice that you included that large tree on the left that acts like an arch that frames the location.
01A	Cathy	Golden Headed Cisticola	6	<b>GOLD</b>	Nice sharp focus with great detail has been held on the majority of the bird. The dead foliage adds a nice harmonious colour to the colour of the bird that is placed well in the frame. Not sure about the lightened vignette though still very acceptable in an open competition category.
10A	Maureen	Gum Bark	2	<b>ACCEPTANCE</b>	If it were not for the title I would be bit baffled by this image. Without a clearly obvious subject I guess I can place it in a 'contemporary' category with those soft muted colour streaks through the frame. Yet I think it needs something there to catch the eye- a prominent spot of colour or sharpness, eg.

06A	Leanne	Honeyeater Chicks Awaiting Dinner	6	<b>GOLD</b>	Beautiful pair. Nicely sharp and detailed. I do think the image could withstand some extra cropping across both top and bottom- top would lessen the bright area on the branch and green leaf, bottom would lessen the out-of-focus foliage. Lighting on the birds was perfect.
20A	Cheryl	Intensity	5	<b>SILVER</b>	There is the smallest of glitches on the rail under the large pine tree possibly from a cloning edit. Forgetting that- Great action shot with good detail to see expressions on faces and a good triangular composition with the ball at the apex. Colours on a sunny day look natural and well exposed.
04A	Julie	Kirkstall Abby	5	<b>SILVER</b>	I give you permission to clone out the rubbish bin :) . Good verticals of the building. Nice framing of the tree foliage. Good clarity and texture in the stone and brick work. Well presented memory of an interesting heritage site.
06A	Leanne	Nectar Collector	4	<b>BRONZE</b>	DOF almost sufficient to achieve wingtip to wingtip sharpness, but otherwise sharp where it is needed. A crop of the image top might lessen the expanse of 'green', and also lessen the chance of 'banding' caused by JPG compression- only just obvious on my screen (Maybe not present in your original). Good colour and exposure.
27A	Sue	Nightwatch	3	<b>MERIT</b>	Well done to achieve a lit shot at night. I can see how the bird is well camouflaged with the tree branch, but darkening the branch slightly and deleting those tiny spots under the left end of branch, might add a little polish to the image. I like the bright colour spot of the eye that attracts our vision.
19A	Jacque	No I'm Not Coming	5	<b>SILVER</b>	Do they ever obey?- Not to my knowledge! There is the slightest loss of sharpness along the lower back of puss, but the enigmatic stare and wide eyes take all the attention. Nicely exposed with a little back-lighting to highlight the fur around edges on the out-of-focus background.
27A	Sue	Wired for Take-off	5	<b>SILVER</b>	Good colour and detail with DOF sufficient for the wings. The barbed wire makes an interesting component in the image with its diagonal line. And the main subject is placed well in the frame.

AB GRADE					
03AB	Mary	Bunka Bay WA	6	<b>GOLD</b>	A simple shot yet very nicely composed with the curve of the water's edge leading from the rocks on left around to the rocky point. Excellent sharpness, exposure and colour in both water and sand.
11AB	Claire	Callistemon Beauty	3	<b>MERIT</b>	Almost got it all, but focus has been in the middle of the foliage and much of the red blooms are out-of-focus, in particular the nearest, and lowest, in the frame. The square frame suits the foliage grouping and colour looks natural and suitable saturated.
17AB	Wendy	Dahlia	6	<b>GOLD</b>	I might have used the green channel when editing to darken the green background a touch. A small preview of the image is not spectacular (just another flower) but looking at it full-screen, the petals are sharply focused with a very painterly appearance and a range of tones that makes it a very interesting beautiful image.
08AB	Maree	Enjoying the Ride	3	<b>MERIT</b>	Ticket collector would be happy with a packed train :) I see the smoke from the engine yet a linear gradient across the top of the frame could add some more clarity and darkening to the distant vessels and trees. Likewise the lower triangular area of grass and tracks could be darkened to place more emphasis on the train and its carriages. I like the diagonal composition of the train and tracks- would be better had it been approaching rather than receding (But out of your control) .
08AB	Maree	Enjoying the Scenery	3	<b>MERIT</b>	Maybe it is a crop from a larger frame but there are areas of overall softness that would look better had it all been nice and crisp in sharpness. Judges often go silly over sloping horizons, particularly water, but easily fixed with slight rotation of the image. The red subject on a blue scene is good use of complementary colours. And a great little car! (I owned one just like it for some time.)
17AB	Wendy	Purple Wildflower	3	<b>MERIT</b>	I don't get a sense of size from the photo, but if a very small flower the DOF has suitably kept edges and details nicely focused. Amazing how flowers can be coloured to attract insects. Perhaps a slight extra rotation of the camera would place the central (yellow) zone on a diagonal improving composition somewhat.

03AB	Mary	Suns Creation	3	<b>MERIT</b>	I believe all the interesting area of this image is the lower two-thirds, so eliminating some of the sky would give a panorama framing that accentuates the beautiful colours in the sky. A nice formation of clouds and good use of the foliage in the foreground. I was taught to always cast my eyes around the edge of a frame and here you might thus eliminate the spot of rubbish in the lower-left corner with a little cloning edit.
11AB	Claire	Wedding Car	4	<b>BRONZE</b>	I like that you have flipped the image as many subjects look subconsciously better as we view the frame from left to right (useful when posing portraits)- BUT did you notice the number plate? And is it a left-hand drive? Ha-ha. OK some comments- The vehicle colour and exposure are spot-on and presents it well. It is only just all included in the frame and sometimes better to allow a little more space about a main subject. Camera was positioned well to capture both the grill and the side view of the car.